

3-2017

Piscataquis Project: Sporting Camps in the Piscataquis River Watershed, Section C, from Katahdin Iron Works Along the West Branch of the Pleasant River to the East End of Big Lyford Pond

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Piscataquis Project

Sporting Camps in the Piscataquis River Watershed

Section C

From Katahdin Iron Works west along the West Branch of the Pleasant River on the Pleasant Valley Tote Road to sporting camps on the river, the east end of Long Pond, Little Lyford Ponds, and Big Lyford Pond

January 2018: updated from posting of March 2017

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Preface– Sporting Camps in the Piscataquis watershed

I started this research and writing project when I retired in 2010. My interest was in reading the history of Maine's wilderness through which Maine's Appalachian Trail passes between Monson and the West Branch of the Penobscot River. In sum, I found little written history about logging or trapping or sporting camps, the three major reasons why people were in this wilderness. Consequently, I began to look for what I could piece together.

After a year of work, I realized that the southern 50 miles of this wilderness was the Piscataquis River watershed and the northern 50 miles was the West Branch of the Penobscot River watershed. Then I turned my focus to the northern 50 miles and wrote articles on the West Branch watershed for *Appalachia* magazine and another appeared on the Fogler Library Maine Digital Commons Maine History site.

In 2014, I began to spend more time with the Piscataquis watershed. Life in the watershed revolved around hunters, trappers, wilderness farmers, loggers, tote roads, railroads, and sporting camps. The sporting camps, the primary focus of this text, began to slowly develop in the late 1870s and reached their heydays before the 1930s. This paper traces the development of these first sporting camps to the present day or until they no longer existed. It also includes those who had a private dwelling built before about 1930. The key focal points are the people, their transportation, their operation, their location, the evolution of their camp, and the nature of camp life.

The Piscataquis watershed is divided into four sections. The preface of each section is the same with the exception of the last paragraph where I name and thank those who have contributed to the section.

This history of sporting camps and early private camps in the Piscataquis watershed is a compilation of previously uncollected disjointed bites of information that are organized according to the first access routes and beginning with the earliest places to stay.

I gathered information from ten major printed sources and through conversations with people. Town histories and local historical societies provide information about the development of a community. The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad yearly publications from 1895 to 1952, titled *In the Maine Woods* after 1899, provide many sporting camp and proprietor names. The Maine Register, 1874 -, is another source for sporting camp and proprietor names. *The Maine Sportsman* (1894-1908) and *Forest and Stream* (1873-1930) provide information about specific sporting camps. Through newspaper search engines that include 19th Century Newspapers and NewspaperArchives more information is available from papers like the *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*.

I attempted to locate information about every name that appears in the text. If a name appears with no other personal information, then I was unable to discover such. Information about the people comes from three primary sources, Ancestry.com, collections of family papers held by Fogler Library at University of Maine, and personal interviews. The Piscataquis and Penobscot county registries of deeds, the Maine Bureau of Public Lands lease office, and Maine's Unorganized Territories Tax Office helped track ownership in some cases.

The notes in all sections enable the reader to know, at a minimum, the general source of information and, in some cases, specifics. For example, where I provided information about a town, I listed the documents used in one note.

The maps are primarily for orientation. In that context, not everything in the text appears on a map. In terms of sporting camps, what does appear is the name of the first known owner.

I want to recognize and extend a most appreciative thank you to the following individuals who provided information for Section C. Your contributions certainly made the text much richer: Desiree Butterfield (University of Maine Fogler Library), Al Cowperthwaite (North Maine Woods Association), James Draper, David Edson (James W. Sewall Company), James R. Erwin, David Field, Mathew and Peter Hamlin, Chuck and Rosemary James, John Leathers (retired State of Maine Game warden), Arlene and Bob LeRoy, Marcia McKeague (Acadian Timber – Katahdin Forest Management), Jean Megquier, James Murray (James W. Sewall Company), Mike Otley, Sarah Otley (University of Maine Library), Tom Nelson (Prentiss and Carlisle Co.), Charles Pernice, Candy Russell (Moosehead Historical Society), Andrew Riely, Eric Stirling, and Erland Torrey. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Thank you for your interest in this history. I would appreciate any thoughts you wish to share.

Bill Geller

Farmington, Maine

Sporting Camps in the Piscataquis River Watershed

Content of the sections

Section A: north from Bangor to Milo and Brownville to the eastern portion of the watershed, Schoodic, Upper Ebeemee, Seboeis, Cedar, and Endless lakes

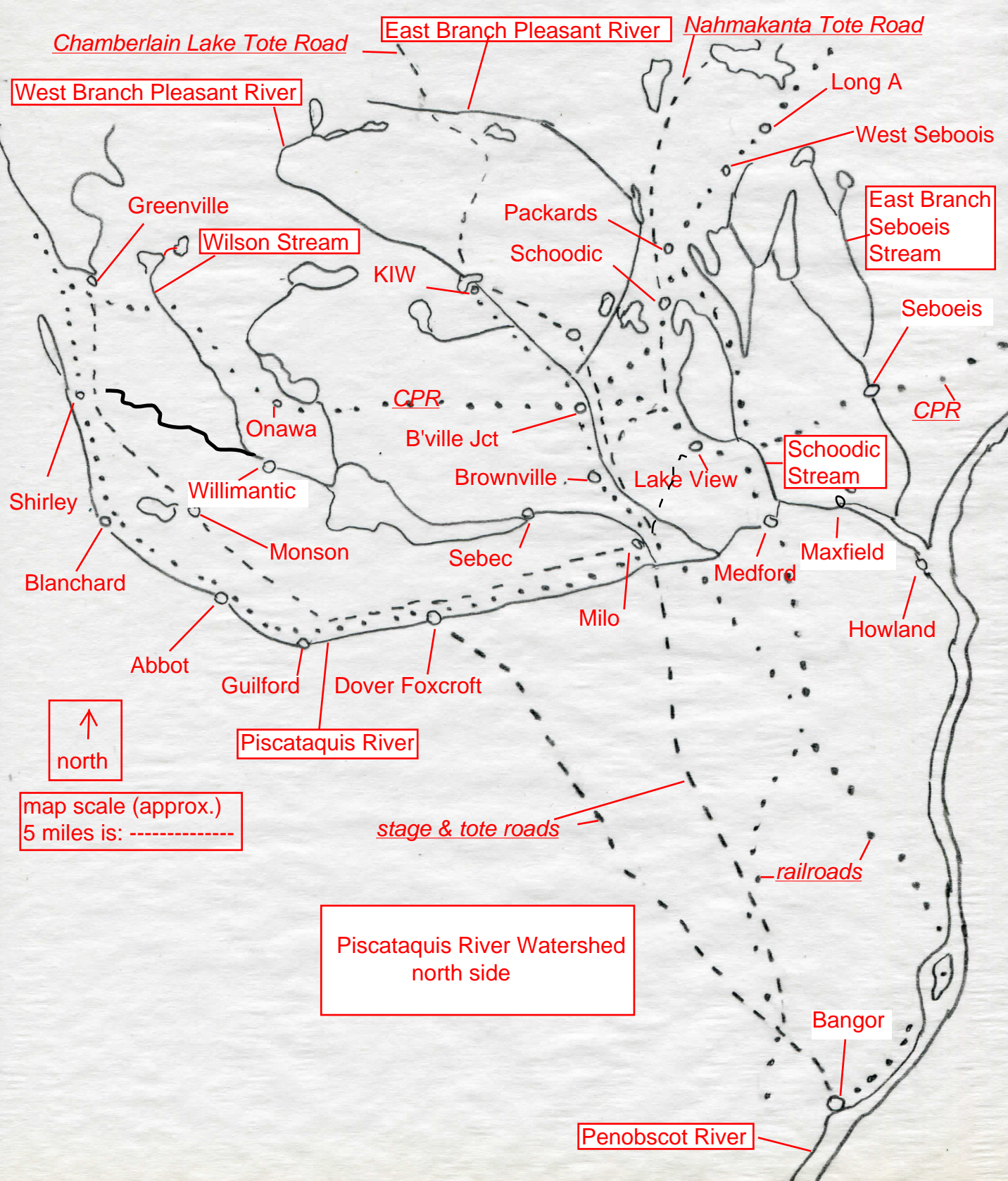
Section B: north from Bangor to Brownville and Prairie, the Ebeemee ponds, and Katahdin Iron Works (KIW); South from KIW to Big Houston Pond and the bowl in the shadow of the Barren-Chairback mountain range; North from KIW to B-Pond, the headwaters of the East Branch of the Pleasant River, and West Branch Ponds, headwaters for the West Branch of the Pleasant River

Section C: north from Bangor to Katahdin Iron Works and west along the West Branch of the Pleasant River on the Pleasant Valley Tote Road to sporting camps on the river, the east end of Long Pond, Little Lyford Ponds, and Big Lyford Pond

Section D: from Bangor to Greenville via access points to Sebec Lake, Lake Onawa, Long Pond Stream and Long Pond, West Shirley Bog and Indian Pond, and the Wilson ponds

Reader's Note:

Each of the A-D sections has three subsections. The first subsection is the same for each of the A-D sections; it is an introduction to the whole of the watershed. The second subsection traces the development of the route from Bangor to the community that served as the departure point for sports traveling to a particular geographic area in the Piscataquis watershed. The third section has the history of the sporting and private camps on the waters accessed from the departure point. Any town name not followed by the name of a state is in Maine.



Section C

Piscataquis River Watershed:

North from Bangor to Katahdin Iron Works and west along the West Branch of the Pleasant River on the Pleasant Valley Tote Road to sporting camps on the river, the east end of Long Pond, Little Lyford Ponds, and Big Lyford Pond

An Introduction:

General Access to and Development on the Piscataquis River and its Tributaries

The Native Americans traveled up the Penobscot River, north into the Maine wilderness, from their community not far above the ocean's tidal effects.¹ They paddled past their villages at Olamon and Passadumkeag. At Piscataquis village², they either continued north or turned west into the mouth of the Piscataquis River and carried around the waterfall. Those on this westerly route traveled the waterway to the mouth of a substantial stream flowing from the north. Their travel on this stream brought them to a lengthy east-west running lake, Sebec (large body of water), which they paddled through to its northwest cove with a short stream to another lake, Obernecksombeek (Onawa), at the foot of the mountains. From here, they portaged along a stream that cut through the

¹ Bangor is the current name of this community.

² Howland is the current name of this community.

mountains to another long narrow lake and then did a series of portages and small pond crossings to reach Sebem³ and Kineo their source of flint. For centuries, the Native Americans used this route and their encampments dotted the waterway.

Colonial trappers and hunters also used the waterways as their roads. Settlers, who came to farm in the growing seasons and log in the winter, followed in 1800 and by 1824 had formed new communities at just about every waterfall, their source of power to mill lumber, grind grain, and, later, weave wool and cotton.⁴ Those who owned the land along these waterways, where towns formed, were willing to sell and have the area develop. However, landowners away from the river did not sell land; they held it for logging and their initial source of loggers were those who moved into the settlements.

In 1802 and 1803 a number of settlements began to spring up on the Piscataquis River.⁵ Medford was 12 miles from the Penobscot River and Dover and Foxcroft⁶ were 30 miles west of Medford. Three years later and eight miles above Foxcroft, farmers started Guilford and, 5 more miles upriver, Abbot. By 1824, families reached the headwaters of the Piscataquis River near Shirley, and Little Wilson Stream at Shirley Corner, and Big Wilson Stream east of Greenville. Shirley developed as it did around the foot of the East

³ Moosehead Lake

⁴ All town names appearing in the text are Maine towns unless otherwise noted.

⁵ The early dates cited for settlements indicate when the first settlers began clearing land.

⁶ Foxcroft was on the north side of the river and Dover was on the south side. They merged in 1922 to become Dover-Foxcroft.

Bog, because the landowner's strategy was to settle the east side of the township and leave the west side for logging.⁷

Development on the tributaries flowing into the north side of the river also commenced in 1802-1803. Settlers left the Piscataquis River on the Sebec River to establish Milo at the two-mile mark, half way between Medford and Foxcroft, and Sebec at the mouth of Sebec Lake, another six miles up river. On the west end of Sebec Lake at the mouth of Big Wilson Stream, other families settled Willimantic by 1830.⁸ In 1806, more

⁷ The following books provide the history of these communities.

Bennett, Wayne and others. *A Centeseptuinary History of Abbot, Maine 1827-2002*. Greenville, ME: Moosehead Communications.

Loring, Amasa. *History of Piscataquis County Maine from Its Earliest Settlement to 1880*. Portland, ME: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1880.

Phillips, Allen H. *Shirley – The People and Their Town*, 2009.

Stevens, Louis E. *Dover-Foxcroft: A History*. Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire Printers, 1995.

True, Emma J. Editor, *History of Greenville 1836–1936*. Augusta, ME: Augusta Press, 1936.

White, Charlotte et al. *Guilford Maine Sesquicentennial*. 1966.

⁸ Blanchard, Dorothy A. *Old Sebec Lake*. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publications, 1997.

Conservation Commission. *Willimantic, Past & Present*. 1976.

Milo Historical Society. *Milo, Brownville and Lake View*. Portsmouth, ME: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Sawtell, William R. *The Bowerbank Story*, c.2000.

Wright, Shirley Nason. *History of Sebec Maine 1812-1987*. Presque Isle: ME: Print Works, 1987.

settlers passed north through Milo to form Brownville five miles to the north at the first falls on the Pleasant River. Eight years later farmers came from Sebec and Brownville to settle around Silver Lake at the foot of the White Cap and Barren-Chairback mountain ranges on the West branch of the Pleasant River. By 1840, folks referred to the community as Katahdin Iron Works (KIW).⁹ In 1816, a farmer went north of Abbot through the woods and settled at the east end of Lake Hebron, Monson. Settlers continued northeast from Monson in 1824 to the fertile interval of Long Pond Stream at the head of Lake Onawa, but a village never developed here.¹⁰

While settlers originally navigated a waterway, roads quickly connected them. The land route was necessary, as the waterways did not always have sufficient water for consistent transportation, particularly in the late summer and fall. In 1824, the first stage

⁹ Gerrish, Judson, and Henry Gerrish. *Brownville Centennial Book*. Dover-Foxcroft, ME: F.D. Barrows, 1924.

Sawtell, William R. *K.I. III*. Bangor, ME: Furbush-Roberts Printing, 1988.

Sawtell, William R. *Katahdin Iron Works and Gulf Hagas: Before and Beyond*. Milo, ME: Milo Printing Company, nd.

Sawtell, William R. *Katahdin Iron Works Revisited*. Self published, 1983.

¹⁰ Anderson, Ken. Profiles in Rural Maine: Onawa, Maine. allmainematters.com

Bennett, Marilyn Temple and Kermit Colson Bennett. *Vaughn's Elliot[t]sville*. Wiscasset, ME: The Copy Shop, 2010.

History of Monson Maine 1822-1972.

Sawtell, William R. *Onawa Revisited*. Milo, ME: The Paper Pusher, 1989.

line went from Bangor directly to Milo, where it split with one fork leading north to Brownville and the other fork following the north side of the Piscataquis River to Foxcroft and two years later reaching Greenville.¹¹ By 1833, a tote road and stage line went directly from Bangor to Foxcroft and on to Greenville, saving loggers costly miles and time. At the same time, loggers extended the other fork, which lead to Milo and then Brownville, to points farther north with access to the east side of the Piscataquis watershed and the West Branch of the Penobscot watershed. For the next 50 plus years, the tote roads to Greenville and Brownville north were the two main arteries loggers used to supply their operations. The number of men on anyone night involved with toting supplies could range from 10 to 40 men at one of their stops. In general, logging operations to the north grew year by year and as a result so did the commercial operations along these two major arteries.

Each of the towns on the river became a center of commerce. The community's farming families grew the food staples needed by the loggers and their oxen, and later horses (post-1890). In the winter, their men folk turned to logging, trapping and hunting. Each community had at least one enterprising farm family that opened an early hotel that served loggers and teamsters headed to the logging camps, housed those cutting nearby and cared for river drivers in the spring.¹² As saw and grain mills developed, some families

¹¹ For the first few years the Greenville settlement was on a flat area about half way between the foot of Moosehead Lake and the Wilson ponds.

¹² Information identifying hotels comes from the town histories and *The Maine Register*.

built boarding houses for the growing work force and, as these workers began to build their own homes and travelers on the stage line increased, the boarding houses gradually morphed into hotels that still served boarders.

By the late 1860s, the level of commerce, as it pertained to farm and wood products, and travelers, was sufficient enough to bring the railroad north from Bangor to the Milo area near the confluence of the valleys of the Piscataquis and Pleasant rivers. Here the rails swung west along the north side of the Piscataquis River. In 1869, Milo became the supply hub for loggers using the major tote roads north. That same year the supply hub for points west shifted to Foxcroft, the end of the rail line for the next two years.¹³ Guilford served as the hub until 1874, when the rails ended at Abbot, where southbound trails picked up a new commodity, slate, from the Monson mines (c.1870). Two years later, the line reached Blanchard and then Greenville in 1884.

Back in Milo and at about the time the rails reached Greenville, crews laid another set of tracks from the rail line's turn to the west below Milo village through Brownville and up the West Branch of the Pleasant River valley to KIW (1882); the junction became known as Milo Junction (or Derby). Influencing this financial commitment was the activity of the iron works and tourist traffic to KIW's popular Silver Lake Hotel. This moved the logger's supply hub for the tote road that went north to the West Branch of the

¹³ Much of the railroad information in this document is from: Angier, Jerry and Cleaves, Herb. *Bangor & Aroostook: The Maine Railroad*. Littleton, MA: Flying Yankee Enterprises, 1986.

Penobscot River to Brownville and for the southern portion of the tote road to Chamberlain Lake to KIW; the northern portion's hub was now Greenville.

Between 1870 and 1883, the addition of these rail lines, which provided a more comfortable and attractive means of travel, began to lure north more adventuresome sports interested in hunting and fishing. Enterprising writers and map makers recognized an opportunity and the first Maine tourist guidebooks and maps for this area, published between 1875 and 1893 by John Way, Charles Alden John Farrar, and Lucius Lee Hubbard, described canoeing routes into the Maine wilderness with the key rendezvous point being Greenville. They promoted the wilderness hotels at Moosehead Lake and the hotel at Silver Lake, and described those areas' attractions. As tourist guides, they offered no information about the territory east of KIW and Brownville, because the area had no communities and no Native American canoe route, and consequently no current canoe route, crossed the area in moving east to west or north to south.¹⁴

¹⁴ Farrar, Captain Charles A. J. *Farrar's Guide to Moosehead Lake and North Maine Wilderness*. Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1890.

Hubbard, Lucius L. *Hubbard's Guide to Moosehead Lake and Northern Maine*. Cambridge, MA: Author, 1889 and 1893.

Way, John M. Jr. *A Guide to Moosehead Lake Region and Northern Maine*. Boston: John M. Way Jr., 1874.

Cook, David S. *Above the Gravel Bar: The Indian Canoe Routes of Maine*, 2nd edition. Milo, ME: Milo Printing, 1985.

The residents who lived in the communities on these two rail lines in the 1880's also noted the increased sport activity and quickly took advantage of it. They made their hotels more attractive. Enterprising farmers and woodsmen began advertising their guiding services and took a sport or two at a time to one of their trapper's camps, a tiny four wall shelter that provided some protection from the weather. Their scattered trapper's camps were usually on the shore of some body of water that they had to themselves. The landowners had no objection to these men fishing, hunting, picking spruce gum, trapping, and cutting a few trees for their tiny cabins. Most of these men also logged or surveyed or cruised timber and the landowners knew they would take care of the land from which they derived their livelihood.

By the mid-1890s, the sporting camp business began to blossom and the number of sporting camps grew rapidly. Enterprising trappers and guides gave up their small trapper's cabins and built more comfortable structures. Other guides and loggers seeing the influx built new sporting camps, some large enough to sleep 12 or more people and others put up a small cluster of sleeping cabins with a common kitchen and dining center.¹⁵ They started small and grew over time. With this change, landowners began issuing commercial leases in the 1890s to guides for a few dollars a year.¹⁶ One major reason for landowners providing leases scattered about their lands was for fire protection; no loggers

¹⁵ A reading of all the issues of *The Maine Sportsman* and *In the Maine Woods* leads to this conclusion.

¹⁶ Copies of camp leases are found in lumbermen's family papers of which a large number are available at University of Maine Fogler Library.

were in these woods during the summer and early fall at the height of fire season. Terms for some leases specifically included a condition that the holder would report intruders and rogue camps, and watch for fires and help put them out, and not build outdoor fires. After about 1910, when loggers began stringing miles of phone lines to connect their camps, they consciously included the sporting camps.

Contributing to a final growth spurt was the 1893 opening of another rail line from Brownville north to Aroostook County.¹⁷ From the initial opening, the freight line provided passenger service to the eastern portion of the Piscataquis watershed, Schoodic and Seboeis lakes and Norcross at the foot of the Lower Chain Lakes (Elbow, North Twin, Pemadumcook and Ambejejus lakes). Also at this time, the B&A began to play a major role in attracting people to the Maine woods. In 1894, they hosted a Maine booth at the first annual New York City Sportsman Show. They also participated yearly in a similar show in Boston. For these shows, they hired popular Maine guides and proprietors of many of the developing sporting camps. The display often included a full log cabin along with pictures and taxidermy work that include large fish and animals.

In addition to the sportsman shows, the B&A advertised, distributed small promotional brochures, and printed a yearly booklet of up to 200 or more pages promoting the north Maine woods as accessible from its rail lines. The first year of publication was

¹⁷ The rail line that began inching north from Bangor and following settlers along the Piscataquis River was the Bangor and Piscataquis Railroad, and the line from Brownville to Katahdin Iron Works (KIW) was the Bangor and Katahdin Iron Works Railroad. These two lines merged in 1891 to form the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad's Piscataquis Division, in this text the B&A.

1895 and, starting in 1900, its yearly title was *In the Maine Woods*.¹⁸ Another popular publication devoted to Maine hunting, fishing and sporting camps and printed between 1893 and 1908 was Maine publisher Herbert W. Rowe's *The Maine Sportsman*,¹⁹ a monthly magazine. Its seemingly endless stream of pictures of long strings of big fish and game suggested everyone was successful.

Writers like Captain Charles Alden John Farrar, who spent summers in Rangeley, and Holman Day, a Mainer, wrote numerous articles and popular books pertaining to adventures in the Maine woods. Day, who began writing about the Maine woods in the mid-1890s and through the first two decades of the 20th century, was a prolific writer.²⁰ Some of his novels used the men and women he met on his excursions in the Maine woods and some of them lived near his camp on Long Pond on the west side of Chairback Mountain. Cornelia Thursa (Fly Rod) Crosby of Phillips, Maine's first registered guide and another well-known spokesperson for Maine's wilderness, was a prolific writer for the numerous sportsman type magazines at the turn of the century. She was often the organizer of the Maine booth at the yearly Boston and New York sportsman shows.

¹⁸ By using the resources of The Maine State Library and Internet Archives one can find a nearly complete set. The New York Public Library has the first issue in 1895.

¹⁹ A combination of the resources at Bangor Public Library and the Maine State Library provides a nearly complete set.

²⁰ Two books Day wrote at Long Pond are: *Squire Phin*, New York: A.S. Barnes, 1905; and *King Spruce*, New York: A.L. Burt, 1908.

Most sporting camps did little, if any advertising. However, what they did do through their guides and cooks was provide every sport an exceptionally rewarding experience that caused them and their families to return year after year and encouraged their friends to join the fun in Maine. As a collective, the guides knew what they did could draw more people to an area or cause them to seek another, so they made sure people had a good time and were successful in fishing or hunting or seeing the sights. The cooks, often the wives of the owners, prepared amazing meals. The daily breakfast was the equivalent of the modern day Sunday brunch and the daily lunch and supper were each like Sunday diner.

In terms of the interests of sports,²¹ Greenville, Monson, Foxcroft, Milo, Brownville, and KIW developed into the main rendezvous communities on the west, south and east sides of the Piscataquis watershed. These towns provided access to the Piscataquis watershed wilderness that has always been the domain of trappers, loggers, and sports. Each of these communities was on one of the loggers' major tote roads from Bangor and served as a hub for other winter logging tote roads that reached into the wilderness and that guides and their sports used.

Access from Greenville into the Piscataquis watershed did not develop until c.1890 and it was not until c.1917 that sports began to use it. The logger's tote roads did not at first enter the headwaters of the easterly flowing Piscataquis River tributaries of Big and Little Wilson streams and the East and West Branches of the Pleasant River. The

²¹ Sport is a term that refers to a person who hires a guide for a wilderness experience.

loggers cutting in the Greenville area prior to 1900 were working for the mills in the Kennebec River system, which flows west and south.

Monson was the rendezvous point for sports traveling 12 miles to Long Pond Stream in Bodfish intervalle, where they had access to Long Pond, the west side of the Barren-Chairback mountain range, and Lake Onawa from 1873 to the present day. The stream flowed south from Long Pond, and carved easterly through the southern slopes of the Barren-Chairback mountain range, passed through the intervalle and emptied into Lake Onawa. The tote road from the intervalle to Long Pond was not always passable, even with a horse and cart. A short side road from the Bodfish intervalle farms led to a landing near the upper end of Lake Onawa. Loggers drove Lake Onawa's rugged outlet stream, Ship Pond Stream, to Sebec Lake, but a route never developed from Sebec Lake up along the stream to Lake Onawa.

At Dover and Foxcroft, tourists and sports departed the stage from Bangor and went a short three miles by foot or carriage to Blethen's Landing, later renamed Greeley's Landing, at about the middle of Sebec Lake. Bateau and canoes called at the landing for those going west on the lake to Willimantic and east to Bowerbank and Sebec. By 1861, the lake had a steamboat capable of handling 300 people. Its proximity to Bangor made the lake a popular summer destination for tourists.

From Milo some sports continued west along the Piscataquis River, others turned north to Prairie and then northwest to KIW. Beginning in 1883 some took the tote road to

the foot of Schoodic Lake and continued on to a sporting camp on the lake or those on Seboeis and Endless lakes.

At Brownville, the route north split and the left fork, the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road, continued north to Prairie and the Ebeemee lakes where it shifted westerly to reach Silver Lake. The right fork, the Nahmakanta Tote Road, went northeast over Searles Hill, then made an arc to the north, crossed near the foot of Norton Pond (also known as Peter's Pond) well above the Schoodic Lake shore, and went straight north across the high land to the northwest corner of Schoodic Lake where it continued on to pass on the east side of Upper Ebeemee Lake and ended 10 miles further north at South Twin Lake's southwest corner. Trappers, hunters, guides and sports headed to the east most portion of the Piscataquis River watershed, Schoodic, Seboeis, Endless, and Cedar lakes' area, used the road to reach a major side road from the Norton Pond area to Schoodic Lake.²²

The community that developed at Silver Lake became known as Katahdin Iron Works (KIW) in the 1840s and was both an early destination and rendezvous location for loggers cutting on both the east and west sides of the Barren-Chairback and White Cap mountain ranges. KIW's Silver Lake Hotel served tourists from c.1870 to 1913 when it burned; its best years were in the 1880s. While its popularity waned in the 1890s, an increasing number of sports came through the community on their way to a sporting camp.

²² Hubbard, Lucius L. Map of Moosehead Lake and Northern Maine, 1879, 1883, 1891, 1894. Piscataquis County Maine Map. Houlton & Dover, ME: George Colby, 1882. Walling, H. F. Map of Piscataquis County, Maine. New York: Lee & Marsh, 1858. Walling, H.F. Map of the State of Maine. Portland, ME: J. Chace Jr., 1862.

Those headed to a sporting camp in the Big Houston Pond watershed, the east side of the Barren-Chairback mountain range, took the tote road from KIW south to Big Houston Pond. Others bound for a sporting camp on the west side of the mountain range took the Pleasant Valley Tote Road from the head of Silver Lake and continued along the West Branch of the Pleasant River, through Gulf Hags that split the mountain range. Another group took the tote road north from KIW through Big White Brook valley to the sporting camps at B-Pond, Yoke Pond and those in the headwaters of the East and West Branches of the Pleasant River.

In 1894, the railroad was the only reasonable and comfortable way to get within perhaps 20 miles of some of these developing sporting camps. The final leg was by horse and wagon or canoe or foot or any combination thereof. Logging roads were exceedingly rough except for winter, when snow filled in around the stumps and rocks, so many preferred walking. By the early 1890s, the tote road north from Brownville became so rough that what used to take a day for a horse with a cart full of sportsman type dunnage to reach South Twin Lake now took two. The condition of a side road was a function of where loggers were going to cut or had recently cut. Since loggers abandoned the roads after they cut, access to some sporting camps changed based on an available road. Most proprietors spent considerable time keeping roads open. For many proprietors ownership necessitated having a horse.

The mix of people who visited the sporting camps changed over time. Up through the 1890s sports were generally men and Mainers, many from the towns on the Piscataquis

and Penobscot rivers, and particularly the Bangor area.²³ As conditions at the sporting camps quickly improved, men from all over New England, New York City and northern New Jersey and Philadelphia started arriving. Beginning about 1900, the B&A publications began to advertise for women and by 1910 wives and children were also coming for summer stays of a month or more. They came year after year and in some cases, like at Yoke Pond Camps, the proprietor let them leave trunks of material for their visit the following year. Some prevailed upon a proprietor to build them their own camp on the proprietor's lease and a few built a camp for their personal use on leased land.

By the mid-1920s, the often-used sections of the loggers and stage roads had been improved and more people were buying cars.²⁴ For example sports could now drive from Foxcroft to Greeley Landing on Sebec Lake or from Monson to Bodfish intervale at the head of Lake Onawa. Ridership on the trains began to decline and service to KIW stopped in 1922. Sports continued to come, but they still had to rely on the camp proprietor to get them the last miles to the sporting camp.

²³ This conclusion is based on reading sporting camp guest books. Big Houston Camps guest register 1896-1939. University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

Long Pond Camps / Dean Register 1895-1919. University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections

Onawa House Guest books 1897-1904. University of Maine Fogler Library, Special Collections

²⁴ A general description of Maine's road development appears in: *A History of Maine Roads 1600-1970* by State Highway Commission, Maine Department of Transportation. The document is online: digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=mdot_docs

The number of sports and families at the sporting camps began to decline in the 1920s. Many of the camps had remained rustic; for the most part business was not sufficient enough to generate the revenue at most sporting camps to make the needed upgrades or in some cases even basic upkeep. The food was excellent and plenty of it, but it was plain with little variety and some sporting camps struggled kept pace with people's broadening tastes. The developing popularity of the car opened up other travel opportunities for families and led to declining numbers of train passengers. Consequently, connections on the lines to the north-country were no longer as frequent or convenient. The depression resulted in fewer sports coming north. During the early 1940s, some sporting camps closed or scaled back as a result of the war. By 2010 the number of sporting camps in the Piscataquis River Watershed that opened before c.1930 had dwindled to three, and only one of these is still family owned.

Being a sporting camp proprietor was a way to sustain a cherished life style and share it with others. The early farmers and loggers who initiated this business did so in order to keep their property or lease and sustain their families. These men and their families cobbled together a living in these woods by farming, foraging, logging, picking spruce gum, guiding sports, guiding for other sporting camps, trapping, hunting for the city markets when it was legal, building and caring for telephone lines, surveying, cruising timber, scaling timber, building private camps for others, and acting as winter caretakers. Many early proprietors turned their sporting camp over to family or sold to a loyal long time guide or a friend in their community, often with the right to live out their years at the

camp. Ownership of the sporting camps continued to be predominantly local Mainers through the 1940s, but then began to drift away from such owners as costs started to rise, exceeded their means and sales began to involve bank loans. Those private individuals who run the last remaining commercial sporting camps continue to have that passion for the life at a camp and have preserved a Maine tradition.

From Bangor to Milo, Brownville, and Brownville Junction

Milo area

How many sports may have come north from Bangor through Milo between the 1820s and 1860s via the tote and stage roads is unknown, as is where they may have been headed other than perhaps to a town west along the Piscataquis River or northwest to the Chamberlain Lake area on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road or north to Schoodic Lake and the Lower West Branch of the Penobscot River on the Nahmakanta Tote Road.

By the 1870s, tourists and sports were passing through Milo on their way to one of the earliest wilderness tourist hotels, the Silver Lake Hotel in Katahdin Iron Works (KIW). Their mode of transportation changed to a train in 1869, when the railroad tracks from Bangor reached the Milo area. These travelers probably spent the night at J.E. Gould's hotel, Gould's Hotel, that opened in the 1860s and remained the only hotel in town until 1913. By the 1890s, Milo guides, like C.S. Harris, W. L. Hobbs, Charles Randall, D. Harris, Will Crosier, Owen Chase, Frank Tibbetts and A.D. Bumpo, who at a minimum

worked the watersheds of the East and West Branches of the Pleasant River, and Schoodic, Seboeis, Cedar and Endless lakes, often met their sports at either the hotel or the station.²⁵

The first road from Milo to the southwest corner of Schoodic Lake opened in 1883 and it became a well-traveled link. Six years later Merrick Thread Company, in anticipation of the east-west running Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) opening in 1889, built a large spool mill at the end of the road on the lake shore, where the tracks would soon be. The community of Lake View quickly developed and the road became the link between the two communities.²⁶

Another important transportation change for Milo in 1883 was the extension of rail service to KIW via Brownville. The area around the Milo station became known as Milo Junction or Derby, and it was eventually a major rail hub and repair center. By 1906, demand apparently exceeded what Gould's hotel had to offer and the Stewart House opened at Milo Junction with E.S. Daggett as proprietor. Four years later in Milo, Walter E. Dillon opened the Dillon House and in 1918 the American Thread Company, which Merrick Thread Company joined, built the Atco Inn that served their company needs,

²⁵ Guide lists appeared regularly in the Bangor and Aroostook publication *In the Maine Woods* and in the magazine *The Maine Sportsman*.

²⁶ Sawtell, William R. *Schoodic Lake Revisited*. Greenville, ME: Moosehead Communications, 2008.

Sawtell, William R. *Lake View Revisited: A Centennial Book*. Milo, ME: Milo Printing Company, 1991.

Sawtell, William R. *A History of Lake View Maine*. Milo, ME: Milo Printing Company, 1985.

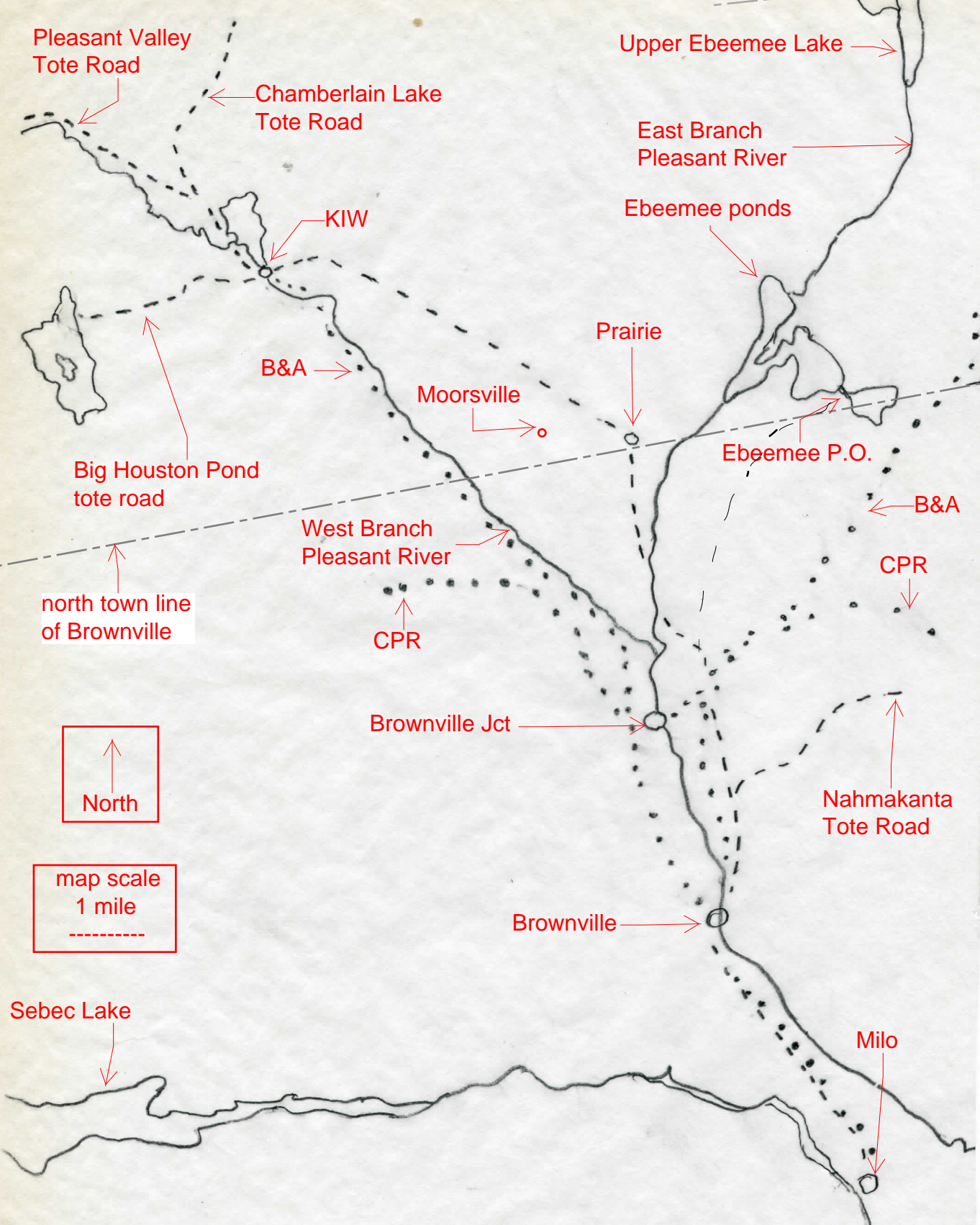
housed permanent residents and catered to transients.²⁷ When KIW rail service ceased in 1922, the Dillon Inn (Dillon House), the Stewart House, and the Atco Inn, now the only three area hotels, provided the overnight stay for sports traveling to and from KIW.²⁸

Brownville and Brownville Junction areas

Five miles north of Milo on the stage road was Brownville, located on the Pleasant River below the confluence of its east and west branches. The village must have provided some form of accommodation, as it was at the junction of the Chamberlain Tote Road (c.1832) and the Nahmakanta Tote Road (c.1832). Furthermore, it was the staging area for loggers who were already cutting up on the East Branch of the Pleasant River by 1825. In the mid-1870s, sports and other guests came to Brownville to meet their guides and start out on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road, their route to the Silver Lake Hotel at KIW. Once

²⁷ Walter Dillon joined his other two brothers, John E. and Herbert T., as a business proprietor in the Brownville and Milo area. Beginning about 1900, he worked for his older sister Nellie and her husband as a hotel cook in the Greenville area. His other sister Mary lived in Greenville where her husband was a merchant. Two other brothers Fredriese and James worked for the railroad in Brownville. They had all been born and raised on a farm in Quebec.

²⁸ Walter Dillon and his wife Laura managed the Dillon House through at least 1940; he died in 1954 and the house closed about 1977. Gould changed his hotel's name to the Oriental House, sold in 1887 to W.E. Weymouth who ran the establishment for four years until A.F. Spearing purchased it and renamed it Milo House in 1902. A succession of owners kept it open through 1917. ATCo sold in 1931 to O.E. Hamlin who sold to Stanley in 1934. Walter T. Day renamed it Milo Inn in 1935 and ran it until 1942 when O.E. Blackden took over for a time. By 1952, James A. Pickard was operating the hotel. The hotel closed by 1961. The Stewart House had two other owners before F.E. Gould bought it in 1913, sold by 1917 to R.M. Colbath, who changed the name to the Piscataquis Hotel and sold in 1924 to O.P. Hackett, who operated the establishment until c.1940.



the railroad reached KIW in 1883 more sporting camps began to open to the west and their sports joined the stream of travelers. The earliest known hotel, and still the only one in 1905, was the Brownville House that Nathaniel C. Herrick, a highly successful farmer, opened before 1872 and his family continued to run until 1923. Herrick advertised to fishermen and provided transportation to many nearby fishing spots, something the Milo hotels apparently did not do.²⁹

Up until 1894, traffic on the Nahmakanta Tote Road was primarily related to logging, but guides with folks on canoeing trips going to and coming from the north were users. Enterprising teamsters hauled canoes and dunnage in both directions on the road to either Upper Jo-Mary Lake, which they reached via a side road, or South Twin Lake. The sporting camp activity along the road and above South Twin Lake did not develop until after the railroad, now the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad (B&A), opened, north from Brownville to Norcross, in 1893.³⁰ One reason for this probably related to the transportation of game. Prior to the railroad, the reasonable way to bring big game, deer, moose, and caribou, south was on a returning empty tote sled or a sled owned by an

²⁹ Twenty-one years later, Nathaniel died and his son Carol E. Herrick took over and renamed the hotel, Herrick House, which he ran until 1905, when the name changed to Hotel Herrick. He sold in 1923 to Francis L. Fogarty who may have only run it for a year before it closed. Mrs. Peter Holt either reopened it in 1935 or built or used another structure and operated through 1939.

³⁰ see note 17

enterprising guide and there were a limited number of these. Even after the railroad opened, many sporting camps had a 5-20 mile trip to the line.

A few miles north of Brownville on the west side of the Pleasant River, Brownville Junction began to develop in 1889, when the east-west CPR crossed the rail line to KIW. The community included a second junction in 1893, when the first B&A train rolled northeast and crossed the CPR on the east side of the Pleasant River on its way north to Aroostook County. William Barrett opened one of the Junction's first two hotels, Henderson-Eureka House in 1889, and ran it for five years. He apparently sold in 1903 to Herbert T. Dillon, who renamed it, Henderson Pleasant River House, and he ran it for a few years before his older brother and wife, John E. and Mary L. Dillon, became proprietors' c.1910, and continued as such until John died in 1940.³¹ William M. Peters opened the other hotel in April 1889 knowing that most guests for his 25 rooms would be boarders. At the same time, a new store was opening, as was a roundhouse and railroad station to serve the line to KIW. The "Junction" was a getting off spot for those coming north on the B&A and going east on the CPR to Lake View and the sporting camps reached from there.³²

³¹ Herbert remained in town as proprietor of a public hall, then a barber poolroom in the 1920s and the local theater in the 1930s, before dying in 1936. "Public hall" was a phrase he used on his marriage certificate and the U.S. Census. The degree to which his wives Agnes, then Mae, and then Mary were involved with his businesses is unknown. The hotel closed about 1961.

³² Two other area establishments are mention, but no information other than the following is available. Richard's Camp, run by Angus Richards, operated out of Brownville in 1939 and 1940. L.H. Ryder opened Elms House and ran it in 1903 and then sold to W.H. Hobbs in 1904.

Prairie (North Brownville)

From Brownville Junction it was six miles due north on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road to Prairie (North Brownville), where it turned west and continued over flattish country to the mouth of Silver Lake and KIW. This was the main route to KIW until 1883, when the railroad bypassed Prairie and went directly to Silver Lake. In Prairie, where the tote road bent west, a side tote road led to the East Branch of the Pleasant River at Lower Ebeemee Pond, which provided access to the five Ebeemee ponds.

The first stage and teamster stop above Brownville and 10 miles north of Milo was at a farm in Prairie, which was on the Brownville north town line. The first known owners of the successful shanty and farm were Moses and Lucy Chandler, who moved to the site after selling their boarding house in KIW c.1853. Succeeding this family was probably the Tufts, who moved from their farm in Belfast before 1870 and, by 1882, owned the four northern most farms that straddled the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road in Brownville Township. When they stopped providing accommodations is unknown, as is when a farm in this area first began serving teamsters.³³

By 1894, folks getting off the stage in Prairie for the Ebeemee ponds could spend a night at Alexander and Cora Snow Arbo's farm, on the north side of the Brownville

³³ The Tufts' stop is on *Atlas of Piscataquis County Maine 1882*. Houlton, ME: George N. Colby Company, 1882. Other information comes from the search engine Ancestry.com.

north town line.³⁴ Cora, born in Sebec in 1854, moved to this farm with her parents before 1860, grew up here, and in 1872 married Alexander, who was from Chesuncook. He and Cora had one child and worked a farm in Perham until c.1890, when they built and managed the Onawa House on Lake Onawa. After four years, they returned to work Cora's family's farm. The original home burned in 1921 and the family rebuilt it. When Alexander died in 1921, their son Paul assumed ownership, continued the farm, and soon created the famous Prairie Pavilion, a dance hall that ran through the end of the 1930s and was capable of handling 500 people. From the Arbos' establishment loggers and sports took a branch tote road east to the outlet of Lower Ebeemee Pond through which the navigable East Branch of the Pleasant River flowed.

The end of the line: the Silver Lake settlement, Katahdin Iron Works

The last stage stop on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road was KIW at the mouth of Silver Lake, 16 miles above Brownville, but the first settlers did not use that route. The Ichabod Thomas and Eben Davis families, each owning 1,000 acres in the northern half of the township c.1810, cut a road due north from Sebec in 1816 to log and farm above the head of the lake on the West Branch of the Pleasant River until Moses Brown bought their lots c.1820. By 1832, loggers had extended the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road along the south side of Silver Lake to the farms, probably one of the earliest shanty stops, as they were 10 miles beyond Prairie. When ore mining commenced a couple miles east of

³⁴ Sawtell, William R. *Ebeemee, North Brownville, and the Prairie*. Greenville, ME: Moosehead Communications, 2006.

the mouth of Silver Lake in the mid-1840s, a settlement, KIW, formed at the outlet of Silver Lake, the families abandoned their farms for ones in Brownville, but the mine and boarding house owners moved in to maintain the open fields in support of their operations and the shanty stop shifted to KIW.³⁵

The KIW blast furnace first operated in 1844 and then sporadically until its last firing in 1890. The iron works employed about 100 men for 12 months, for the years it was open, and another 300 men during the winter to cut the hardwood for the kilns. During those 46 years, the community struggled financially much of the time, but logging and farming, and what eventually became a popular tourist destination hotel helped sustain its residents.

Some time in the mid-1840s, Moses Chandler, a carpenter, moved his family to the community to help build the many necessary support structures. By 1850, he, his wife Lucy, and their five children were running a boarding house with five boarders and perhaps occasional sports. Commerce in the community must have been excellent for in the mid-1850s John Pollard gave up his successful Greenville farm, moved his wife, Sarah B., and five children to KIW to take over the Chandlers' boarding house, which

³⁵ A richer history of KIW is available in a number of books such as those that follow: Sawtell, William R. *K.I. III*. Bangor, ME: Furbush-Roberts Printing, 1988.

Sawtell, William R. *Katahdin Iron Works and Gulf Hagas: Before and Beyond*. Milo, ME: Milo Printing Company, nd.

Sawtell, William R. *Katahdin Iron Works Revisited*. Self published, 1983.

they renamed Katahdin Iron Works House. They also held the lease to a farm at the head of the Sliver Lake. Their farming success continued and by the time they left to farm in Minnesota in the late 1860s, the KIW farm was 200 acres of improved land.³⁶

Business at the Pollard's house, one of two boarding houses that the community eventually had, was excellent and they began to expand it with the support of the mining company who owned it. By the time the Pollards left in 1877, the structure accommodated 100 people, primarily loggers in the winter. In support of summer business, the owners recognized a financial opportunity in advertising the hotel as a summer wilderness destination point. The main attraction was the presumed healing quality of nearby Katahdin Mineral Springs, so they portrayed the house as a resort for tourists and especially for invalids.

While John Way's 1874 guidebook, the first Maine guidebook covering this area, described no sport activity in the KIW area, the large number of tourists coming to KIW and using the Katahdin Iron Work's House resulted in the owner changing the name to the Silver Lake Hotel by 1877. The stage arrived on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays and went out on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The hotel was about to also

³⁶ *The information regarding the sequence of the hotel's ownership is from information in Sawtelle's books, Ancestry.com, The Maine Register, the B&A's In the Maine Woods, Lucius Hubbard's guide books, and the Bangor Daily Whig and Courier issues of: September 9, 1872, June 8, 1881, April 30, 1883, July 17, 1888, May 7, 1889, May 1, 1890, November 27, 1897, April 4, 1898.*

become the rendezvous point for guides meeting their sports headed to sporting camps within a 20-mile radius.

As successors to the Pollards after 1877, the hotel owners sought persons experienced in inn keeping and farming. Their first hire was Joseph C. and Sarah Herrick, who, along with their son Arthur, moved to KIW from Hudson where they had been innkeepers for at least the previous seven years and they farmed in Corinth before that.³⁷ After five years, the Herricks left and J.E. Harriman, who was previously at the Fort Point House in Bangor, became the manager.³⁸ The volume of business was sufficient to warrant more changes. He oversaw the hotel's next expansion, thoroughly renovated and refurbished it, and instituted a special Saturday stage that met folks coming on the train from Bangor to Milo and returned them to Milo early Monday. With those changes implemented, a young Henry E. Capen, who grew up on his family's farm near Dover, worked at his family's hotel business in Greenville, and was a clerk at the Mount Kineo House on Moosehead Lake, took over by 1883. He managed the hotel through its heydays of the 1880s, a time when it was fresh, attractive and easily reached by train starting in 1883.³⁹ The hotel continued as a popular destination for Bangor area residents

³⁷ In 1882 the family moved from KIW and remained in Maine; Joseph died in Maine in 1896; by 1900 Arthur and his family were farming in White Lake South Dakota and Sarah soon followed to live with them.

³⁸ *Bangor Whig and Courier*, June 8, 1881.

³⁹ As his predecessors, Capen ran the mine's and the hotel's farm that now had 17 horses, a yoke of oxen, 7 cows, 100 sheep, and five hogs. He employed 15 farm laborers that cut 250 tons of hay and harvested 750 bushels of oats, and picked 600 bushels of potatoes and vegetables.

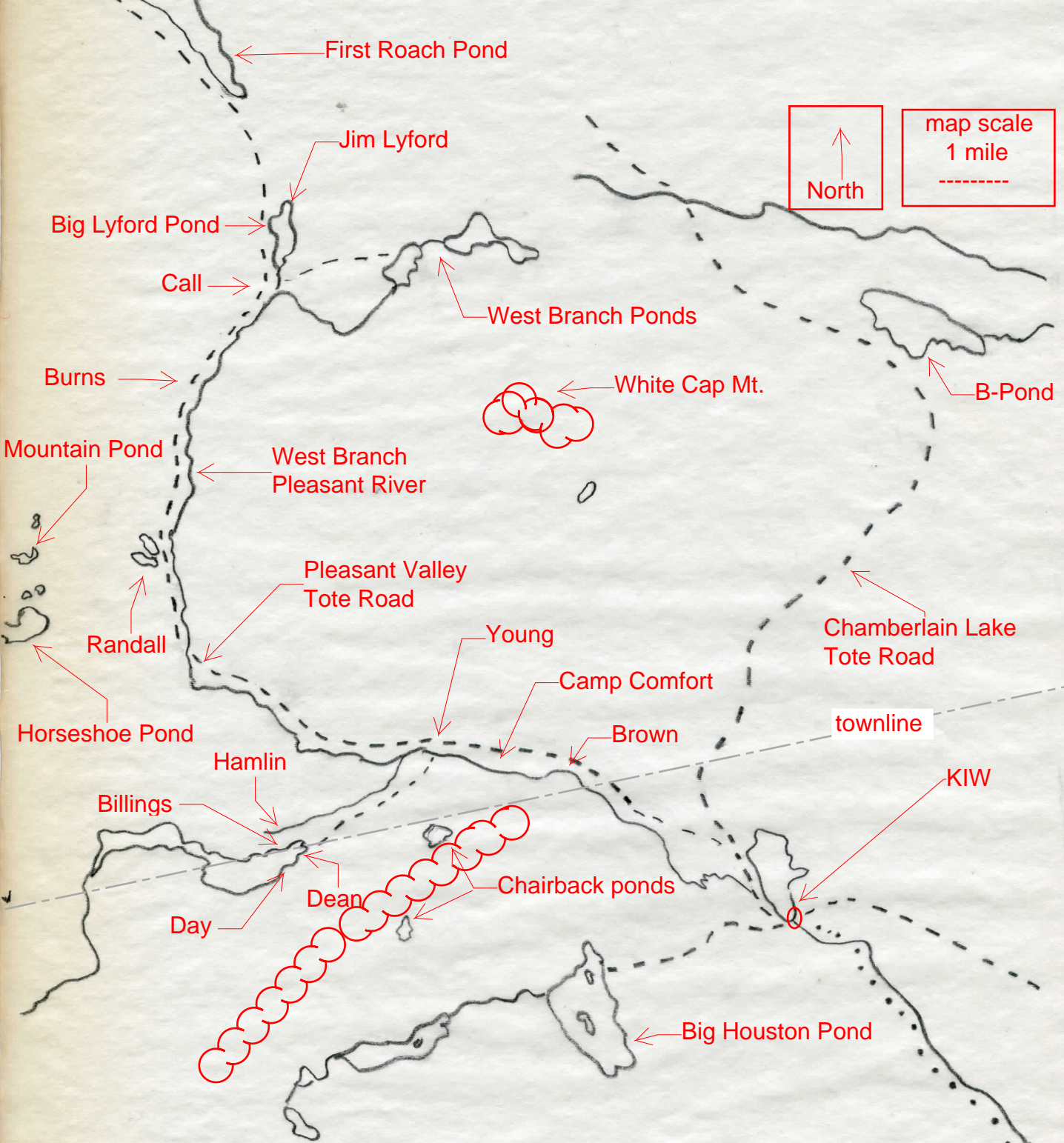
and Lucius Hubbard's Maine guidebooks of the 1880s advertised Gulf Hags and the general area.⁴⁰ Capen left the hotel in 1889, married, and by 1900 was living in Augusta, where he was the proprietor of the Augusta House.

During the height of the hotel's popularity, guests had numerous sites they visited on foot. The mineral springs were about a mile away. They walked a road to the top of nearby Saddlerock Mountain. Some took a two-day trip to the summit of White Cap Mountain following the logging tote roads up White Brook to the Gaffney logging camp and then a trail to the summit. Others went up the river to the hotel's farm, where they crossed the river on the rope ferry and followed a spotted line to the top of Chairback Mountain. Guests also hiked to the top of Horseback Mountain and into East and West Chairback Ponds, the Houston Ponds, Long Pond, Spruce Mountain Ponds, and Gulf Hags.

Beginning in 1890, the hotel business began a noticeable decline. After Capen left in 1889, the owners renovated the hotel and hired William Heugen, the B&A conductor on the KIW line, as their manager.⁴¹ However, by this time traffic on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road was a fraction of what it once was. The railroad had reached Greenville

⁴⁰Hubbard, Lucius L. *Summer Vacations at Moosehead Lake and Vicinity*. Boston: A. Williams, 1879, 1880, 1882.

⁴¹ Heugen, born in Nova Scotia, immigrated to Maine in 1870, married his wife May, and lived in Bangor where he was a railroad conductor on the line to KIW in the 1880s. He left the Silver Lake Hotel job in 1897, went to Lake Onawa to open a sporting camp, and eventually became a hotelkeeper in Bangor.



in 1884 and it became the major supply hub for logging activity north of the headwaters of the East Branch of the Pleasant River. The hotel's winter business of housing teamsters and loggers headed north now included only those going as far as the East Branch, not far above 10-mile Shanty, the next stop north of KIW. The major impact on the community was the closing of the ironworks after the firing of the blast furnaces in 1890. This meant that during the winter seasons the hotel did not have the boarding loggers who had cut the hardwood for the kilns each winter. Then, in 1894, the B&A extended its rail service north from Brownville to Norcross on the eastern edge of the Lower Chain Lakes (North Twin, South Twin, Pemadumcook, and Ambejejus lakes), where new wilderness hotels sprung up with views of Katahdin and steamboat rides on the lakes, a new and exciting destination point. Commerce in the community languished until 1897 when Perkins and Danforth Spoolwood Company moved into some of the iron works buildings and the hotel was again a boarding house during the logging season, but the grandeur needed to attract tourists was already lost. Fourteen years later, the spoolwood company ran out of birch to cut and left the community. The hotel was again vacant during the winter months and then burned to the ground in 1913 and no one thought it was financially feasible to rebuild. Then, nine years later, the B&A stopped train service, but left the tracks so the remaining community residents could use a jitney.

At the time the hotel burned, Albert and Sarah Green were the managers, who had taken over in 1906 from F.H. Eddy, who succeeded Heugen in 1898, and became the community's leaders until their deaths. Albert worked for the iron works until it closed,

and Sarah E. McDonald came with her parents from Brownville to KIW in 1890 and then worked at the hotel. Their marriage in 1906 was a commitment to each other and to life in KIW.⁴² While no one ever rebuilt the hotel, Albert and Sarah opened a place for travelers to stay in the old boarding house across the street from the old hotel site and Albert began managing a nearby farm. Eventually, he either opened or reopened a local sawmill. Their boarding house burned before 1920, but, still undeterred, they continued to board people in another house. These were tough financial times in this community and those few that stayed had to be creative.

In 1929, Albert died from complications stemming from an injury at his sawmill, but Sarah continued on until 1968. Left with no income and three children, Sarah began renting her house in 1930 and served sports at her cabin, where the conditions were rustic: no electricity; guests drew water in buckets from the river, heated with a wood stove, and did their own cooking. She also had cabins on Silver Lake that she leased from Allied Chemical Corporation and rented. In 1940, she and her 16-year-old son, Harry, two of the nine year round residents left in the community, were again running a boarding house. In March 1941, she took over The Hermitage, a sporting camp up river below Gulf Hugas, and opened it yearly except 1945. In September 1941, Charlie Berry, proprietor of Yoke Pond Camps, who knew his time for running such a sporting camp was near the end, gave the operation to Sarah for a dollar with the understanding he

⁴² The life of the Green family is well documented in the Sawtelle books cited in note 35.

would continue to run them, live at the site, and could reside there until his death.⁴³

They sold the sporting camp in 1946 and he continued to live there. She was still renting cabins on Silver Lake and operating The Hermitage in the mid 1960s. She died in 1969 at 83 years of age.

While the popularity of the Silver Lake Hotel faded away in the 1890s, sporting camp activity picked up and remained strong for sixty years. In 1900, sports could leave Boston on a 9 a.m. train and arrive in KIW at noon the following day. KIW was the hub for sports continuing north up Big White Brook valley on the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road to B-Pond and the headwaters of the East Branch of the Pleasant River at the north end of White Cap Mountain. Other guides took their sports west on the Pleasant Valley Tote Road along the north side of the West Branch of the Pleasant River through Gulf Hagas to the sporting camps on the west side of White Cap and Barren-Chairback mountain range. Those proprietors with sporting camps in the great bowl north of Benson Mountain and on the east side of the Barren-Chairback mountain range headed south from the KIW village on the tote road to Big Houston Pond.

One aspect of KIW never changed until the 1970s. The stage road, the railroad, and then a drivable road all ended at KIW. Up until the 1930s, sporting camp proprietors on the tote roads beyond KIW met their guests in the settlement. The first drivable road access that developed for most of these establishments on the west side of the Barren-

⁴³ The Skillin family, who bought the Yoke Pond Camps from Charlie, provided information.

Chairback and White Cap mountain ranges came from Greenville to the west. The difficult access kept the sporting camps popular with some, but uninviting to others.

West from KIW on the Pleasant Valley Tote Road

The Pleasant Valley Tote Road parted from the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road near the farms above the head of Silver Lake, and eventually worked its way up along the West Branch of the Pleasant River to its headwaters. By 1852 it had reached the head of Gulf Hagas, but it was nearly another 30 years later before some semblance of a passage way reached Big Lyford Pond and West Branch Ponds, the river's headwaters, the end of the often impassable or exceedingly rough 20-mile journey from KIW.

About 1865, sporting and private camps began to appear along or near the lower portion of the road: William P. Dean at Long Pond (1865); Phillip H. Randall at Little Lyford Pond (1873); Waldo Billings at Long Pond (1875); Campbell Young at the foot of Gulf Hagas (c.1892); George I Brown and Son Camps, the Brown Farm, just over the KIW town line in Bowdoin College Grant East Township (1898); and Holman Day on Long Pond (c.1900). The Pleasant Valley Tote Road above Little Lyford Pond did not develop as a route to the sporting camps in the Big Lyford Pond and West Branch Ponds area until after 1880, when it reached the outlet of First West Branch Pond and, even then, the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road was sometimes used to reach KIW.

As passed down by word of mouth, William P. Dean was at the southeast corner Long Pond building a cabin c.1865, but how he happened to be here, when his home at

the time was in township #5 of Hereford, Canada, on the border north of Canaan, Vermont, and he did not move to Lincoln until 1872, remains a mystery with only a few clues.⁴⁴ Dean, an artist turned photographer, was born in 1835 in Canada, and moved to Hereford, Canada in 1861. In January 1868, he married widowed Leah Hubbard of Colebrook, New Hampshire and they resided there along with Leah's three daughters, and William worked as a photographer. By 1872, the family moved to Lincoln where Dean had a photography shop until sometime in 1878. Leah divorced Dean in January 1882. Within a year, Dean moved to KIW where he reopened his photography shop and ran it for the next 14 years. In 1889, he advertised himself as a guide, work he performed through 1898. Between 1900 and 1911, the year of his death, Dean lived with the George and Ada Larrabee family in Kingman. Dean died while on a solo hunting and trapping excursion during the winter of 1910-1911. Ada Larrabee reported him as missing, area folks conducted an unsuccessful search, and no one found his body until May 1, 1911. On his death certificate the coroner listed Dean's occupation as photographer, noted the cause of death as exhaustion, and wrote that "Dean came to town several years ago, made his home with a resident, had an eccentric nature, shared little about his prior life, and was a great hunter and trapper."

In 2015, 24 of Dean's photos (dated 1865-1875) are at the J. Paul Getty Museum near Los Angeles, California, and another 26 stereoscopic views (undated) are in the New York City Public Library digital collection. The works include pictures of Lincoln and

⁴⁴ No first hand written account puts Dean at the pond in 1865: the recorded facts make the early date questionable.

other towns in the Penobscot River valley, Pleasant River, Ore Mountain, the KIW community, charcoal kilns at KIW, and the Silver Lake dam and nearby sawmill. Neither the museum nor the library have additional bibliographic information or are exactly sure when Dean took the pictures.⁴⁵

Given that Dean loved woods life away from civilization⁴⁶ and he was new to this area of Maine, he may have originally built the cabin as a personal refuge, but his subsequent addition of buildings suggests that at some point he began operating a sporting camp that he stayed with until 1888. Over time Dean added three other structures, “the Octagon Camp,” “the Dean,” and one for dining and cooking. The octagon shaped cabin was heated with a fire on a hearth in the middle of the camp and the hearth had an inverted steam locomotive smoke stack suspended over it for a chimney.⁴⁷ Dean’s sports arrived in KIW where either he or a guide met them. They probably rode with a teamster to the Pleasant Valley Tote Road junction where they shifted to foot travel, if no team was headed up river. Near the mouth of Henderson Brook at the foot of

⁴⁵ The date on each Getty object is based on the medium (albumen silver prints), presentation (stereographs), and subject matter. The photos at the NYPL are labeled as “Dean and Larrabee.” Whether the Larrabee on the pictures pertains to a Larrabee family member with whom he resided is unknown.

⁴⁶ J.A. Thompson, a visitor to Long Pond in the 1870s made this observation, which was noted in: Rowe, Herbert W., “Across the Chairback Range,” *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 8 no. 94 (June 1901): 230-232.

⁴⁷ Rowe, Herbert, W., “Across the Chairback Range,” *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 8 no. 94 (June 1901): 230-232.

Gulf Hagas, they waded the river until Dean designed and built a suspension bridge, and then continued on a trail to his sporting camp.

Dean sold in 1888 to Albert and Helen Brown, who further developed the commercial operation, and advertised as Chairback Mountain Camps. Albert had previously worked in the nearby iron works and Helen at the Silver Lake Hotel. The sporting camp was now a nine-mile buckboard ride from KIW, where they met the guests. During their first seven to eight years, they added four buildings to the complex; the names of three of them were “the Alden,” “the Rinebach,” and “Camp Kendoza.” The name on each structure in 1906 was: The Cliffs, which was on Boulder Point, Camp Kenoza, Camp Little Rhody, Camp Bay State, Camp Ronkonkomo, Camp Ktaadn, The Octagon, The Cedars, and The Jungle.⁴⁸ Dean’s original cabin was crumbling in 1901. At some point, and with Dean’s cleverness, they replaced his suspension bridge with a high line cable ferry or, as locals named it, the aerial ferry, or, as referred to by river drivers, “Dean’s roller coaster.” It was still functioning in 1901 and proved useful when the river was clogged with logs or too high to cross with a horse and cart. To build it they stretched two cables across the river high above the water. Suspended from the cables was a box structure in which a person stood and pulled the box across.

The Browns had a large number of guests who came year after year. Many came to fish and hunt in the area of East and West Chairback Ponds, Trout Pond, Wilder

⁴⁸ Rowe, Herbert W., “Across the Chairback Range,” *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 8 no. 94 (June 1901), 230-232.

Ponds, and Hedgehog Pond, where at a minimum they had a raft to fish from. They also maintained a trail that went over the Chairback Mountain saddle to Big Houston Pond. In 1895, they had a total of 76 guests.⁴⁹ To accommodate the overflow crowd in 1906, they used several tents and lean-tos. Cecil B. DeMille came with his wife in 1906 and in 1908, the party included six friends. Dean visited the sporting camps, nearly yearly, through 1909, and probably guided for them.

After Albert died of typhoid fever at the sporting camp in 1898, Helen continued to manage the operation. She and her two daughters, Edith and Ethel, both of whom grew up at the site, ran the sporting camp for the next five years with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mills, and logger and long time guide, Charles J. Henderson. In 1904, by virtue of his marriage to Helen, Charles became an even more integral part of the operation and the couple continued to run the establishment until about 1920, when they moved to Milo, and Charles returned to the woods as an axe man in the lumber camps.

A young Clarence W. West (b. 1901) of Milo succeeded the Hendersons, was the manager through 1924, and advertised the sporting camp as Long Pond Camps. Whether or not he purchased the sporting camp from the Hendersons or had perhaps guided for them and now managed it in their absence is unknown. During his tenure, the kitchen and dining room buildings burned, as did the cabin nearest to them. He had left a fire in the kitchen stove unattended. Clarence married in Milo in 1924 and by 1930 was a plumber.

⁴⁹ "Long Pond Camps / Dean Register 1895-1919." University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections.

Roland Scott Emery, known as Scott Emery, of Brownville took over the sporting camp for the next three years. Previously, he guided for this sporting camp and others, and was a woods worker in the off-season. Whether his wife Ada and his two sons joined him in running the sporting camp is unknown. In 1928, Emery went to work for the White Cap Mountain warden and ten years later, in 1938 and 1939, he was the winter caretaker for Big Houston Camps.

Helping at the sporting camp beginning in the 1920s was a young Ben Cole of Dover. His mother had carried him, as a two year old, in a burlap bag with two holes cut out for his feet, back and forth to the family's sporting camp, the old Philbrook shanty, on Wangan Brook just above Upper Ebeemee Lake. When the Long Pond sporting camp had no work or he had a few days off, he walked out to KIW to get back to Dover. By the mid-1950s Ben's daughter Jean and her husband Joseph Megquier had their own cabin on Upper Jo-Mary Lake.⁵⁰

Ralph E. York, a logger and teamster, was Emery's successor and managed the operation until 1936. In the 1920s, he was a logging camp foreman in the Milo and Lake View area, and managed Lake View Hotel, where he resided with his second wife Lillian. The Yorks' access to the sporting camp was by team from either Greenville or KIW, routes used through at least 1931. Those traveling by train got off at Brownville Junction

⁵⁰ Interview with Jean Megquier.

where Ralph met them and drove them to the head of Silver Lake. From the lake to the sporting camp was a four-mile buckboard ride.

The Yorks sold to Earl W. Perham and he and his wife Minnie ran the sporting camp through the end of the 1954 season.⁵¹ The Perhams were born, grew up and lived most of their lives in the Brownville and Milo area. Earl was a logger and a teamster in the off-season for the American Thread Company in Milo. The sporting camp eventually became known as Perham's Long Pond Camps. During their ownership they added a guest camp and a camp near the barn for the hired men, and built a new wharf and cold cellar. The sporting camp's connection to the outside world continued to be a phone line to KIW.

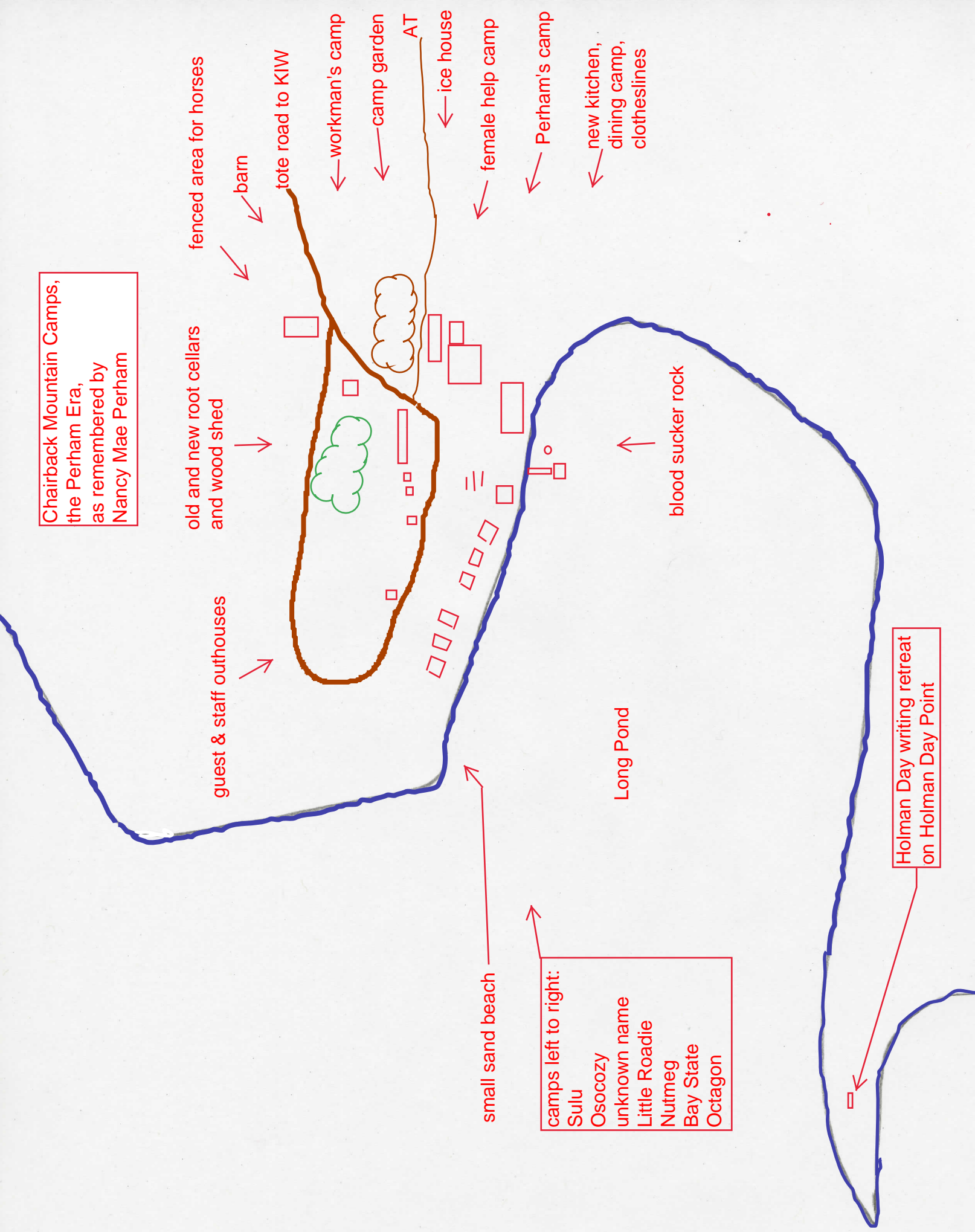
The Perhams opened in May and closed up by Thanksgiving, but left one small cabin with supplies open for the winter in case someone needed shelter. Fishermen came in May and June, and many hiked into East and West Chairback ponds to fish. Earl felt the fishing in Long Pond was poor due to the logging drive residue. Summer guests were usually present for one to two weeks. During hunting season in the fall, they would have 15 to 20 guests. When the sporting camp had 25-30 guests, as it sometimes did on Memorial Day weekend, the camp was at capacity.

⁵¹ Most of the information on the Perham ownership came through Nancy Mae Perham Offutt and her daughter Chris. Nancy spent the first 17 summers of her life at the sporting camp with her grandparents. Some printed history states that Earl W. Perham ran the camps with his son Jr.; Earl Jr. had no involvement with the sporting camp's operation. Earl W.'s father was John Perham.

Access to the sporting camp during the Perham years was from Milo and Katahdin Iron Works. It was a long car ride from Milo into KIW where the American Thread Company had a gate. After unlocking the gate, they drove on to White Brook. From here the mode of transportation was horse and buckboard or wagon. The team went up the valley on the tote road, forded the river, continued up the mountain, and through the bog on corduroy to reach the sporting camp at the east end of Long Pond. The trip was hard for the horses and they took many rest stops along the way. The Perhams' grandchildren always thought they would never get there. In the early 1950s they used an Army surplus vehicle, perhaps an old ambulance that had high clearance and a winch on the front. They could only use it after the spring flow of the river subsided. When the water was high they used the horses. The ambulance may have been a little faster than the horses, but it was a lot rougher.

Minnie directed the sporting camp's operations, cooked, kept the accounts, was the primary contact with their guests, and never left the site once the season started. Earl's work was providing guest transportation to and from camp, caring for the horses, keeping the canoes, boats and the two boat motors in proper condition, and securing food stuffs and other supplies as they needed them. Minnie hired a helper and Earl hired two men who worked throughout the year. At the time they bought the sporting camp their sons, Charles and Earl Jr., were older and never took on a role in the sporting camp's operations.

Chairback Mountain Camps,
the Perham Era,
as remembered by
Nancy Mae Perham



small sand beach

camps left to right:

- Sulu
- Osocozy
- unknown name
- Little Roadie
- Nutmeg
- Bay State
- Octagon

Holman Day writing retreat
on Holman Day Point

The hired men had specific tasks spread across the whole year. In the spring they planted the sporting camp's garden that included: green beans, wax beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, lots of lettuce, radishes, and potatoes. Throughout the sporting camp's summer season they spent considerable time maintaining the corduroy section of the access road, and cut the many cords of firewood for the following year. They saved the sawdust and used it in the icehouse. As they cut ice in the winter they placed sawdust between the ice blocks and then covered the ice when the house was full. Several times a winter they came in to shovel off building roofs. These men also helped with the horses' hay, which was cut from the fields of the old farm just above Silver Lake at KIW. They strew the green hay on the ground near the barn turning it to dry it before storing it in the barn.

Minnie knew that good food made a positive impression on guests and was a key element in the success of any sporting camp. The kitchen and dining room with a porch was in the main camp on the lakeshore, and served as the gathering point for guests. Minnie's warmth and friendliness was central and a vital part of these gatherings and guests looked forward to them. She had a small library for the guests in the dining area.

The meals were excellent, served beautifully, and included meat, starch, vegetables, salad, and desert. Minnie cooked and baked with a wood stove turning out bread, biscuits, doughboys, rolls, donuts, and all the other baked goods. Before the garden started producing she used the canned vegetables she put up the previous year. Otherwise the vegetables and salad ingredients came fresh from their garden. The

condiments, like pickles, she had canned at harvest time and stored them for the winter in their cold cellar. When the raspberries were in season she served them with fresh cream, made pies with them and preserved some. She provided bag lunches for those who went off for the day. Guests never had to eat the same meal twice during a stay, even of two weeks. When a guest wanted his or her fish for a meal, Minnie dredged them in corn meal and then fried them in bacon fat. She also cooked for the staff and her family, often a little different version of what she served the guests, and they ate in the kitchen area. Her kitchen had a hand pump that drew water from the lake for cooking and washing, but their drinking water came from a spring even though the lake tested potable. She preferred to cook on the wood stove as opposed to a small gas stove that was available. For refrigeration there was one small gas unit, but she relied mostly on the ice the men cut and stored in the ice house. The sporting camp did not keep any farm animals other than the horses.

The kitchen also served as the sporting camp's laundry facility. Minnie and her hired woman washed the camp linens in huge copper pots on the wood stove, rinsed them in the lake and wrung them out by hand. The camp had an old gas wringer that sat on the porch but it was noisy and smoked and they had to haul water from the lake to it.

Life at camp during the summers for the Perham grandchildren was fun and exciting. Charles' children, Nancy Mae, Jimmy and Ronny, visited the camp with their parents in the summer and when they were old enough spent the whole summer, from July 4 to late August, before they returned home to East Hartford, Ct. Nancy did a few

chores to help her grandmother, but they mostly played, swam, used the row boats and canoes, wandered around the woods, read books and played cards. The few children that came with their parents for a stay did not share the same excitement about the area as Nancy and her brothers did. Once or twice a summer they would go down the lake in the big row boat with the big motor (big enough for eight or nine people) to visit the Dore's sporting camp. The trip was exciting especially when the water was low later in the summer and they had to navigate just so through the narrows, so as to not hit any rocks.⁵² A few times they hiked a loop that took them to Gulf Hagas and back. When raspberries were ripe Minnie and her grand children went to the abandoned lumber camps to pick and then enjoy them in fresh cream. Sometimes they went to the small nearby island to pick blue berries. When guests caught fish they brought them back to camp for cleaning, often by granddaughter Nancy. Sometimes there were so many Minnie set up a seven step assembly line: cut open, gut, clean blood stream, rinse, dry, newspaper wrap, place on ice in ice house.

The sporting camp had a few AT hikers, and every few years a trail crew would come and stay at the camp for a few days. In 1948 Earl Shaffer, the first through hiker on the AT, stopped at the camp in August, slept in the barn, and bought a couple cans of food before going on. He had planned on taking the hike with a buddy, but he never returned from the war so he decided to do it alone.

⁵² Low water was not always weather related. The lumber company controlled the dam and sometimes left a gate open for unknown reasons. When Earl heard a gate was open, he sent a man down to close it. The lumber company never told Earl to stop.

The size and number of structures in the sporting camp complex was at its largest during the Perham years.⁵³ As the guests approached the circular road through the camp's grounds, the first building they saw was the barn and work shed on their right and in the circle the workman's camp, which sat in a wooded area south of the barn. Their first view of the lake was over a grassy area and the garden, below which was an ice house and then the cabin Minnie and Earl lived in with attached quarters for the hired female help. The long side of the main camp (dining and cooking) paralleled the nearby shore and had a porch on the west end. An open grassy area separated it from a flower garden of mostly pansies that was next to the Octagon Camp, in front of which was the wharf with five boats. The canoe rack was the next object and beyond that lined up on the rocky shore were seven sleeping cabins (Ktaadn, Bay State, Nutmeg, Little Rhodie, a space, unknown name, Osocozy, and Sulu). A small sand beach was just beyond Sulu Camp. The two outhouses, one for guests and one for staff, were up across the camp circular road. Also in the circle were the swings and the new and old cold cellars. A dead end road from the circle went to a fenced in meadow for the horses. Older folks referred to the meadow as the "big garden." Nancy, Minnie's granddaughter, thought that maybe previous owners had a large vegetable in this area. The Appalachian Trail entered the grounds between the icehouse and the garden.

When the Perhams were in their 60s the camp work became harder for them to manage and they knew it was time to sell. Harry G. Kitchen, who had not been a guest,

⁵³ Nancy Mae Perham provided the layout of the camp.

bought the sporting camp. The Perham heirs remember that he may have bought it for an organization that may not have run it as a commercial enterprise. At some point during his short ownership, he built a new main camp away from the lake in a position in which it did not receive the lake breeze so it was hot with poor ventilation. Kitchen employed Bob McMichael to help with the operations.

Kitchen sold in 1960 and for the next decade, owners Anne and Jim Erwin of York operated the sporting camp under the name, Chairback Mountain Camps, a name first used by the Hendersons in the 1890s.⁵⁴ The Erwins and their four children were not campers or hikers, so owning a sporting camp was a totally new experience. However, as a boy, Jim had spent his summers on his grandmother's farm in South Berwick and loved being in the woods. Those experiences and his joy of hunting fueled his dreams of owning a sporting camp. The family may have been attracted to this sporting camp because Jim's uncle from the South Berwick farm owned a private camp near the foot of the pond. In addition to having a sporting camp, Jim was also developing his legal and political career. From 1967 to 1972, he was Maine attorney general and subsequently a two-time candidate for Maine governor.

At the time of the Erwins' purchase, the sporting camp's structures needed considerable maintenance work. They spent a year repairing roofs and walls, and took down the old dining cabin, which they replaced with a stick frame building. When they opened a year later, they had five sleeping cabins for sports, a cabin that they lived in,

⁵⁴ Interview with James R. Erwin, son of Anne and Jim Erwin.

and a cabin for a maintenance person. Each cabin had an outhouse, but no plumbing of any sort. The kitchen had gas refrigeration, but their cook used a wood stove until late in their ownership.

The Erwins hired a year round caretaker and maintenance person, Jim Drake, who was a Monson trapper and a general jack-of-all trades, and upon whom they depended greatly. He and the cook took care of the garden and ran the sporting camp when the Erwins were not present, which was frequent in the fall when school was in session. In the early spring, he prepared the sporting camp for the spring opening, in the fall he closed it for the winter, and during the winter he kept the roofs shoveled. One of the spring preparations was repairing the boats and placing some on East and West Chairback ponds where fishing was excellent; the fishing in Long Pond in the 1960s was poor. When the Erwins were there, all family members present helped out, but it was not a priority for the children to be at the site for the full summer.

At some point in time prior to the Erwins' ownership, the rendezvous point for anyone headed to the sporting camp changed from KIW to Bodfish Intervale. Drake picked everyone up in a Chevy Carryall, which could handle the rough six mile tote road up the west side of Long Pond Stream to a landing near the mouth of Trout Pond Stream, a mile above the pond's dam. From here they used boats for the four-mile trip up the lake to the sporting camp. The trips up the pond and through the two rocky narrows were always an adventure depending on weather, wind, the amount of dunnage, and especially, if the Erwin's Irish wolfhounds were in the boat and an animal was at the lake shore. At

some point in the 1960s, Jim's uncle, Tom Davidson, who had a cabin near the dam, took his D-2 bulldozer into the narrows and pushed around some of the rocks attempting to create a better channel. Apparently, Drake was at home in Monson when he did the work, for when he went zipping back through the narrows, having long ago memorized where every rock was, he crashed into one that Davidson moved.

One challenge the Erwins apparently faced was attracting more guests. Given the run down condition of the sporting camp when they bought it, those folks who had perhaps been coming year after year had started going elsewhere. The difficulty of reaching the sporting camp was perhaps another drawback. They also had no reliable phone service and had to use mail to communicate about all reservation and pick-up arrangements. They did benefit from an increasing number of hikers on the Appalachian Trail (AT), which passed through a corner of the sporting camp's yard. In spite of their efforts, by the latter part of the 1960s the Erwins realized the establishment was not going to be successful commercially, so they stopped taking guests and used the sporting camp for their enjoyment, until they sold in 1971.

After the Erwins sold, family members' contact with Drake continued, as did his presence in the north Maine woods. He went to work for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and by the early 1980s he took a job with Bangor Hydro tending the Telos dam on Webster Brook. When the Erwin's young eight-year-old son Jim first met Drake, they connected and over the years Jim learned a lot from him. Perhaps their association was a part of the reason Jim worked the last log drive on Chesuncook Lake in 1971. They

stayed in touch until Drake died in the mid-1990s. For Jim, Drake's passing represented the end of an era in the Maine woods.

Keith and Shirley Hodsdon, Andover beef and vegetable farmers, succeeded the Erwins and ran the sporting camp for the next twenty-five years. Their son Joel, who soon sold his Tim Pond Camps lease (Eustis), joined the operation as caretaker and spent a few winters living at the sporting camp and restoring the Octagon Camp.⁵⁵ The Hodsdons continued the tradition of opening with fishing in the spring and closing at the end of hunting season. When the Hodsdons took over, the route to the sporting camp was either the one Erwins used or the old trail up Henderson Brook from the river ford at the Hermitage. Loggers soon replaced the old trail, when they opened a road for their operation in the East Chairback Pond area.

About 1990, the Hodsdons sold a percentage of the sporting camp to Howard R. and Katherine (Kitty) J. (Goodman) Simpson of Baltimore, Maryland. Howard, who had a prominent career in the bond securities business, was an avid canoer and hiker, and had been a frequent guest at the sporting camp. The Simpsons and their four children and their families came each summer with many children and friends. Five years later they knew of the Hodsdons' interest in selling their remaining share and bought it.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ Joel Hodsdon obituary at Findagrave.com.

⁵⁶ Interviews with James Draper and John Leathers provided information about the Simpsons.

The Simpson lease was for a private camp, but they still hired a caretaker and others to do needed work. John Leathers worked a couple years for the Simpsons replacing logs of the sleeping cabins and recognized the structures needed more work than he could ever get to. The part-time caretaker took down one structure closest to the water, but did so before the Simpson's had permission to replace it. No one ever rebuilt the structure. In 2004, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) became the landowner and three years later bought out the Simpsons, and soon reopened the sporting camp as a commercial enterprise. The AMC tore down the stick frame kitchen and dinning room and replaced it with a new log style lodge. Some of the Simpsons returned for stays during the first years of AMC operations.

The oral history involving the initial building of Long Pond Camps c.1865 and the Octagon House, some years later, tells of William P. Dean, a Civil War Veteran who lost an arm and his young son building a cabin at the pond.⁵⁷ Primary documents indicated Dean was not a veteran and did not have a son. However, Dean might have been assisted in his cabin building by a local Civil War veteran and his young son or Dean may have been confused with a Civil War veteran and his young son who had a cabin on the pond. A sporting camp brochure from the York era stated that soon after the Civil War, several prominent Maine officers came to the pond to recuperate from wounds and disease.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Andrew Riely captured the oral history in: "Timber, Shotgun, Boot, and Ski." *Appalachia*, Vol. LXII no.2 (Summer /Fall 2012).

⁵⁸ York, Ralph, "Long Pond Camps," printed brochure, University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections.

One such person who could fit either situation was Thomas Waldo Billings of Brownville and his son Andy R., who was born in 1865. Confederate soldiers wounded Billings at the Battle of the Wilderness. With his health restored, his commander asked him to organize and lead sharpshooters for the remainder of the war. Whether the wound was related to his arm is unknown, but a wound did affect his lungs and ultimately led to his death, March 10, 1890.

Billings was certainly familiar with the Long Pond area. He not only hunted and trapped the area, but he also worked for the lumber baron William McCrillis exploring and scaling lumber on his timberlands in the watershed of the East and the West Branches of the Pleasant River.⁵⁹ About 1876, he decided he wanted a trapper's cabin and built one in a clump of tall spruce on the northeast shore of Long Pond. A huge boulder with a fire hearth at its base was the wall at one end of the cabin. He made the sidewalls of cedar splits and covered the roof with poles topped with large sheets of bark. By 1880, Billings, who became a cooper and had a shop by 1870, was only farming, hunting, and trapping. He had become known as the area's best big game hunter of moose, caribou and bear; a notoriety that came in part from a bear trap he set in October 1871 in the KIW area and caught a 400-pound caribou.⁶⁰ Later in life, he was in charge

⁵⁹ Thompson, J.A., "Lost Opportunities," *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 9 no. 98 (September/October 1901).

Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, obituary for Billings, March 17, 1890.

⁶⁰ *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, October 16, 1871.

of “the town [Brownville] farm,” which attended to indigents, the poor, and others needing assistance. Billings Falls near the head of Gulf Hags were perhaps named for him.

As some trappers of the time, Billings shared his cabin with fellow trapper friends. In 1878, J.A. Thompson⁶¹ was hunting in the area and made, what he described as a cozy cabin, his home for a time. One day, Amos Chase, a guide from Greenville, who also knew Billings, was guiding Lucius Hubbard, the mapmaker and guide book writer, down the West Branch of the Pleasant River Valley.⁶² Not knowing Thompson or that he was there, Chase decided to stop and spend the night. Thompson knew of Hubbard and was impressed with all his instrumentation. He also noticed Hubbard had a Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity lapel pin and to Hubbard’s surprise gave him a secret fraternity sign that Hubbard immediately recognized. Thompson had belonged to the same fraternity when he attended Colby College. Hubbard was an 1872 graduate of Harvard College. The following morning Thompson paddled them down the lake, so they could go on to Trout Pond, Hedgehog Pond and Elephant Mountain, their route back to Greenville. When Thompson stopped using Billings’ cabin and what became of it are unknown, but

⁶¹ J.A. Thompson is Joseph A. Thompson. Typically, his name appeared as J.A. Thompson.

⁶² Thompson, J.A., “Maine’s Highest Trout Pond,” *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 8 no. 94 (June 1901): 233-234.

in his columns for *The Maine Sportsman* in the early 1900s, he did not mention his use of the cabin after 1878.⁶³

Another Long Pond neighbor of Dean, Billings, and the Browns was Holman Day. Between 1892 and 1908, Day, a well-known Maine newsman and author, spent considerable time in the Lake Onawa and Long Pond area.⁶⁴ Day grew up in Vasselboro and when he was 16 years old, he worked the summer at a hotel on Moosehead Lake. He loved the Maine woods and its inhabitants, and traveled to many parts of northern Maine. At some point, he obtained a Maine guide's license and took friends into the Katahdin area. Other times, he was even farther north at places like Churchill Lake. He liked to have companions with him and he hunted with a camera and notepad. In the early 1900s, he wrote at least two articles for *Forest and Stream*.⁶⁵

Before spending time on Long Pond, Day had a cabin on Lake Onawa.⁶⁶ Here he met and talked with the Nymphas Bodfish family, whose members had lived in the valley

⁶³ In May 2016 a search for a huge boulder in the vicinity of the northeast corner of Long Pond yielded only one large possible rock, but it had no black char on its face.

⁶⁴ Sherman, Ivan Cecil. *The Life and Work of Holman Francis Day*. University of Maine thesis for Master of Arts in English, 1942.

Down East, April 1960, p.36-40.

⁶⁵ Day, Holman, "A Cry in the Night – A Story of the Maine Woods," *Forest and Stream*, Vol. LVIII no. 1 (January 4, 1904). (This story is about Trustim Brown.)

Day, Holman, "The Charming Man and the Maine Woods," *Forest and Stream*, Vol. LVIII no. 4 (January 25, 1902): 63. (This is a story about his Churchill Lake trip.)

⁶⁶ See note 63

since c.1830. He also traveled up Long Pond Stream to Trustim Brown's farm and sporting camp where he spent time listening and talking to Brown, who lacked formal education, but had read widely and wrote coherently. From Brown's sporting camp, he walked a trail to visit Long Pond, where he met Dean and Thompson.

For some reason the east end of Long Pond and the Chairback Mountain Camps appealed to Day and at some time, probably before 1900, oral history indicates he gave up his Lake Onawa lease and built a structure on a Long Pond point that took his name. Documented history tells of Day building a "sort of lean-to" on a prominent point, a short walk from "the main camp."⁶⁷ When the Perham's granddaughter, Nancy Mae, was at the sporting camp, only the ruins of the Day structure remained on Holman Day Point, which is across the cove from the sporting camp, a short walk, and immediately east of what locals labeled First Island.⁶⁸ The size of the ruins Nancy saw suggested that Day's structure was more than a simple three-sided lean-to with a roof. Jim Draper learned that Day hunted in the area and when he shot a deer he drained the blood of the deer by hanging it over the cliff side facing Chairback Mountain at his structure on the point.

The "main camp" Day lived in at the pond was probably a cabin at Chairback Mountain Camps. It was reasonably large for in 1906, when he wrote *King Spruce*, both

⁶⁷ See note 63

⁶⁸ Information provided by Nancy Mae Perham Offutt. James Drake, who worked at Chairback mountain camps beginning c.1960, also referred to that same point as Holman Day Point in conversations with James Draper in the later part of the 1960s.

his wife and publisher were present at the cabin. Day signed the guest register at Chairback Mountain Camps in 1902 and 1905. Furthermore, he liked to have friends in attendance. Cecil B. DeMille, a frequenter of Maine sporting camps, was alleged to have been a guest of Day one summer. DeMille was a guest at Chairback Mountain Camps as per his signature in their guest book in July 1906 and May 1908.⁶⁹ DeMille was supposedly at the lake for a number of years in a row. Given the recorded information it seems likely that Day only built the lean-to type structure that he used for writing when he stayed at Chairback Mountain Camps.

A curious matter concerning the “main camp,” if it was not the Chairback Mountain Camps, is its closeness to this sporting camp. Sporting camp proprietors were protective of “their pond” and surrounding area and did not generally support the building of other structures on “their pond” unless they approved. An unwritten wood’s code, which seemed to be nearly universally honored by landowners, was only one sporting camp or cabin lease per body of water. During Day’s time in the area, 1890-1910, the Brown family owned Chairback Mountain Camps. They were good friends with J.A. Thompson, who had a cabin on the other side of Chairback Mountain on Big Houston Pond. Thompson, who traveled regularly from his cabin to Long Pond and down to Lake Onawa and back to his cabin visiting people he saw along the way, would have met Day when he was at Lake Onawa. Thompson may also have known Day,

⁶⁹ “Long Pond Camps / Dean Register 1895-1919,” University of Maine Fogler Library Special Collections.

because they were both Colby College attendees and loved the Maine woods. Thus, Thompson could have been the one who encouraged the Browns' support of Day building on Long Pond near the sporting camp. Thompson also happened to be one of the township's (T7R9 NWP) nine landowners, each holding an undivided share.

This assumption about Day's "main camp" location raises two questions. If the "main camp" was part of the sporting camp complex, then why did Day only sign the guest register twice? Secondly, if Day had his own "main camp" what happened to it once he stopped using it? It could have burned, but if it did not, there is no found record of another person owning a cabin in this area of the pond. If he left a "main camp" that was not part of the sporting camp complex, then the proprietors at the sporting camp would not likely have let it go to waste; they would have perhaps not maintained it, but used it. There is no information to suggest that the sporting camp either did or did not take over such a "main camp."

In addition to other published works, Day wrote his first novel, *Squire Phin* (1905) and later *King Spruce* (1906) while at his Long Pond cabin.⁷⁰ When he completed a chapter script, he sent it out by runner and buckboard to KIW, and had it mailed to his publisher and returned by the same conveyances. For these books' characters, he

⁷⁰ Day, Holman F., *Squire Phin*. New York: A.S. Barnes, 1905 and *King Spruce*. New York: A.L. Burt, 1908.

Some of the information came from: Sherman, Ivan Cecil. *The Life and Work of Holman Francis Day*. University of Maine thesis for Master of Arts in English, 1942.

generally used a characteristic, as opposed to an actual name, of the people he came to know near his cabin. In *King Spruce*, a number of Day's characters appear to be in part modeled after people he knew in Bodfish intervale and on Long Pond. Trustim Brown, the mediator and spiritualist, was Prophet Eli. Isaac Bodfish, the mentally retarded son of Samuel Bodfish, was Abe. Edward Young, a guide (1890s) for the area sporting camps and hermit who built a cabin on the edge of Gulf Hagas, after his wife left him for another man, was one part of Linus Lane. William P. Dean, as a professional photographer and a person with an unknown past, was another part of Linus Lane. J.A. Thompson, whom lumbermen hired to walk their boundary lines and to check on loggers cutting operations, was Christopher Straight. In Day's story, "On Misery Gore," William Dean was the outlaw who threatened to burn the woods. Nymphas Bodfish, on Long Pond Stream, was the name of the captain in *Squire Phin*.

While Day set *King Spruce* in the north Maine woods, he did not use an actual geographical area, but he did cite different identifiable locations of Maine's north country and some were perhaps in the Long Pond area. Linus Lane was in a fire watch-tower, where he would signal to Attean Mountain (established in 1905). The site could have been White Cap Mountain that had a manned tower in 1906. He mentioned blasting in a river channel at "the jaws;" a place name within Gulf Hagas. The ledges crisscrossed by various characters could be those of Barren-Chairback Mountain range. Some of the characteristics of Misery Gore, lack of timber, excellent nearby blue berry picking, and home of a small group of poor people, matched Bodfish intervale.

Holman Day's love of the Maine woods lead him to write about what he observed as the great waste left by logging operations and Maine's failure to deal with it. His frequent news articles related to conservation and logging practices and his novel *King Spruce* found their way to President Theodore Roosevelt's desk in the White House. At the invitation of the president, Day traveled to the White House and gave him a first hand account of what he had been observing in the Maine woods.⁷¹

When Day, the Browns, and Dean traveled the Pleasant Valley Tote Road to and from KIW to reach their sites on Long Pond after 1892, they passed three sporting camps, The Hermitage, George I. Brown and Son Camps, and Camp Comfort.⁷² The Hermitage opened in 1892 on the north side river at the crossing of their trail to Long Pond. Campbell Young, a Scotsman and hermit, built the sporting camp, which was his home and became known as The Hermitage, in a grove of new white pine not far below Gulf Hags Brook at the foot of Gulf Hags. Young sold about 1903 to G.W. Morse, a Boston corporate lawyer, who built some additional buildings including a stable and hired a year round caretaker, who may have also run the sporting camp for Morse. The Morse family was present much of the summer season, became friendly with the Brown family at Long Pond and the children of both families often played together.

⁷¹ *Down East*, April 1960, p.36-40.

⁷² Some of the information on these sporting camps came from previously cited Sawtell books on KIW and from the B&A's series *In the Maine Woods*. Information about the individuals came from Ancestry.com.

Sometime during WWI, Wilbur Johns of Ohio, perhaps the bookbinder and printer from Mansfield, Ohio, bought the lease, apparently ran the operation, and sold before 1920 to John Happersberger, a single man from Butler, Ohio. The men perhaps knew each other, as they lived their early years within 15 miles of each other. Happersberger worked in his family's jewelry business as watchmaker and was a jewelry wholesaler. He took a mortgage to buy the sporting camp, lived year round at the site, hired Fred T. Allen as cook in 1918, and ran it as such through at least 1920. Allen was a mechanical draftsman in a locomotive plant near John's Ohio community. He enlisted in WWI in May 1918 and was sent for training to University of Maine at Orono, where the armed services discharged him November 1918. By 1924, Allen and Happersberger were both back working in their previous professions in Ohio. Who introduced these three men to Maine sporting camp business is unknown.

In the early 1920s, John E. Kelley,⁷³ President of Pleasant River Pulp Company and Advance Bag and Paper Company, either canceled the lease or in some manner took over the establishment for the next 20 years. His crews built a two-story lodge, and repaired the other hip-roof log cabins. Both companies directed log drives from the site and kept the place for their clients. Hanaford Graves was their caretaker during the 1930s.

⁷³ This spelling of Kelley, as opposed to Kelly, is what appears at the Piscataquis Registry of Deeds.

In March 1941, Kelley deeded the land and the buildings to KIW's Sarah Green, whom he admired, and with whom he had worked, and she reopened the complex as a commercial sporting camp for the next 25 plus years, but not in 1945. For many years, Green employed Frank Godreau, a single man with no family.⁷⁴ One of Frank's jobs was to transport guests from KIW to The Hermitage; in the 1960s he used Green's jeep. The road was poor and they warned the guests that the vehicle would become stuck three or four times on the way in. Other guests included Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers. When The Hermitage was full, Green also rented, without approval, three of the mining company's cabins on the river below the lake, because the company never seemed to use them. One year, when company officials showed up to use the cabins, she had guests in them.

As Green grew older, perhaps her thoughts shifted to what she could preserve forever that would be a reminder of the grandeur of her beloved KIW area. Green sold The Hermitage and property to The Nature Conservancy by 1967, stopped managing the sporting camp in 1968, and died in February 1969. The Nature Conservancy took down the structures by 1975 with a plan to put them back up at another location.⁷⁵ However, they found it impossible to move the logs from the site as they had planned. A crew set the logs in the river and attempted to burn them. A number of them floated free ending

⁷⁴ James Draper provided some of this information in interviews.

⁷⁵ Much of this information came interviews with John Leathers.

up in Silver Lake, where cabin owners salvaged them. The site became a national historical landmark in 1977 and the lovely grove of white pines that surrounded the sporting camp still stand, but are not old growth pines that loggers of the 1800s passed over.⁷⁶ By the time Young built his first structure, the pines had begun to seed in and owners since then have protected them for all to see what once lined this river and first brought men here.

Below The Hermitage and near the mouth of Hay Brook, an unknown proprietor opened Camp Comfort c.1900. *The Maine Sportsman* in 1901 listed the sporting camp as three miles from Long Pond.⁷⁷ In 1903, the telegraph office at KIW received a message for a man reported to be at a nearby sporting camp.⁷⁸ A runner first went to Camp Comfort, but found no one of the name, so he then went to George Brown's Camp, The Hermitage, Little Lyford, Long Pond, Big Houston Ponds, and back to KIW. Someone eventually located the man in the Sebec area.

Down river from Camp Comfort and just above the Bowdoin College Grant East town line, George I. Brown and Son Camps or Pleasant River Camps, a half-day's walk above Silver Lake Hotel, opened before 1894 and served sports for the next 20 years.

⁷⁶ In many more recent articles, the pines at the site are described as old growth; the first loggers would not have spared any first and second quality pines next to the river.

⁷⁷ J.A. Thompson verified that same mileage in "Looping the Loop," *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 10 no. 118 (June 1903): 204, 207-208.

⁷⁸ Rowe, Herbert W., "In Maine Woods," *Forest and Stream*, Vol. LXI no. 18 (October 1903): 340.

After the iron works closed in 1890, George may have taken over an old farm or a lumber camp and added to it or built the cabins anew. George, born in 1837 in Castine, served two stints in the Civil War between 1861 and 1864. After the war, he lived in Bangor, married for a second time in 1876, and worked as a butcher. By 1880, his wife Ellen and four children were in Bangor and he was in KIW working at the iron works. George's only son Walter I. Brown, born before George left for the Civil War, grew up and worked in Bangor. What role Walter played at the sporting camp is unknown, but when Walter married in 1905 the marriage license listed his father's residence as KIW and sporting camp proprietor. With deteriorating health in 1908, George left the sporting camp and never returned.⁷⁹ Except for one short period of time, he did not leave Togus National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Augusta and died there in 1920.

The Brown family sold by 1909 to William M. and Nellie D. White, who along with their son Henry J., apparently operated through 1914 or 1915. In 1880, William and Nellie lived in Glenburn where William was a painter. By 1900, Nellie, still married to William, and the children lived in Milo. William's absence from home may be that he was working in KIW. The iron works last firing was in 1890, but he may have stayed on to log or work one of the farms or perhaps to work for George Brown. When Henry married in 1916, he listed his father's occupation as painting and his parents were living

⁷⁹ His 1908 admittance papers at Togus National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Maine cited his occupation as ironworker.

together in Milo. The sporting camp appears to have closed and not reopened once the Whites left.

Twenty years before Young and Brown opened their sporting camps in the early 1890s, Phillip H. Randall, a contemporary of Dean, Billings and Thompson at Long Pond, opened and ran a sporting camp for over 25 years in a deserted set of lumber camps near Little Lyford Ponds a short 3 miles above Gulf Hags and 12 miles from KIW on the Pleasant Valley Tote Road.⁸⁰ Randall, who lived in the Bangor area when his first wife died and left him with six children before 1860, married again, to Harriot (Hattie) L. Jackson of Bangor, and by 1870 the family was farming in Atkinson on the Piscataquis River. Whether or not the family made the sporting camp their year round home is unknown, but the sporting camp served both fishermen and hunters. Randall met his sports at the Milo train station and he transported them from there to the sporting camp via the tote roads. In 1896, Randall leased the sporting camp to E.W. Powers of Brownville so he could rest.⁸¹ By 1900, Hattie had died and Phillip soon moved to KIW, where he died in 1909.

Randall either sold or leased the sporting camp to Wallace W. Freese and his son Benjamin F. by 1900 and they advertised the sporting camp as Randall's Camps until

⁸⁰ Some of the information about this sporting camp and others in Section C came from: Duplessis, Shirley. *Hidden in the Woods: The Story of Kokad-jo*. Greenville, Me: Moosehead Communications, 1977.

⁸¹ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 3 no. 31 (March 1896).

c.1909. Wallace was born and grew up on his family's farm in LaGrange and moved to the Sacramento, California area before 1870. He married by 1880 and had three children. At some point, he left the family and came back to Maine, remarried, had another son, and in 1900 listed his occupation as a "hotel keeper" in Bowdoin College Grant (East), where he and his wife Belle and Benjamin lived year round. By 1910, Wallace had left his Maine wife and son and was back in California living with a son of his first wife.

Edgar Albion and Clara Sherburne succeeded Freese and ran the sporting camp through the 1928 season. Edgar grew up in Milo, worked for Phillip Randall's son, Charles Randall at First West Branch Ponds sporting camp as a teenager, and in 1900 was living in Boston and employed as a brakeman on the railroad.⁸² He returned to Milo in 1903, worked in the community, and married Clara Mitchell, a local schoolteacher. In at least 1917 he and Clara lived at the sporting camp year round and had a KIW mailing address.

The Sherburne's operation was a joint effort. The sporting camp had a cook camp, 13 sleeping cabins and a small cabin valued at \$100 at nearby Loon Pond, known as Horseshoe Pond after 1920.⁸³ It also had a garden, open fields for grazing and hay, chickens in a chicken house, and pigs, cow and the horses in a barn. They planted the garden as soon as they arrived in the middle of May. The consequence of the timing of

⁸² *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, October 1, 1895 and December 10, 1896.

⁸³ Phillip Randall cut the first trail to the pond in July 1896; *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 3 no. 36 (August 1896).

the planting meant that the meals early in the season revolved around trout, potatoes, beans, bacon, a little pork, bread, cookies, doughnuts, eggs, hot cereal, and pies. Mrs. Sherburne, the cook, served a trout dish at almost every meal; fried trout, pickled trout, stuffed trout, trout chowder, and boiled trout. The menu, reminiscent of logging camps, expanded as crops matured, mud on the road dried up, and berries ripened. They also grew and stored oats for the horses. The challenges to keeping the chickens alive were skunks, coons, and foxes.⁸⁴

The couple initially advertised the sporting camp with access from KIW, but by 1922 Edgar was bringing in guests from either KIW or Greenville by horse team and on foot; the means of conveyance did not change during their ownership. In KIW, guests got off the train and, after 1922, the jitney from Brownville, and Sarah Green drove them to Kelley's Depot Camp, west of Silver Lake and above the mouth of Big White Brook, a 50 minute ride covering four miles and costing two dollars. The Sherburne horse team with a stone sled hauled the dunnage and the guests walked from there to the sporting camp.

In 1929, the Sherburnes moved to Bucksport and sold to fellow Milo residents William (Doc) and Grace MacLeod and Miss Marion Call, and they worked together for

⁸⁴ Most of the information about the sporting camp for the period 1928 – 1946 came from: Bliss, George S., "The Bliss Journals of Little Lyford Ponds" (1928, 1930, 1934, 1935, 1939, 1943, 1946). www.blissjournals.com

Bliss, George S. "Little Lyford Ponds 1940," unpublished personal document, privately held.

the next 11 years. Grace was from northern Maine where she and her husband first lived in Mars Hill and he practiced dentistry. They moved to Milo in the mid 1920s, he continued his practice and they initially lived in the Atco Inn, an inn run by the American Thread Company. Doc suspended his practice during the sporting camp season. Call lived with her sister-in-law in Milo and served as a practical dental nurse for Doc. In 1944, she married Lawrence MacLeod, son of Grace and Doc. Lawrence worked in the lumbering business and was living in Charlestown, at the time of their marriage.

Each of the three owners assumed key roles in the sporting camp's operations and they hired additional help. They came in together in the spring to prepare for the season which opened in mid-May and closed in late September or early October. Grace and Marion took care of the reservations, accounts, menus, cooking, housekeeping, supply ordering, and gardens. Doc, who was a woodsman and sportsman who had been around sporting camps, met the guests in Greenville, tended the animals, drove the team to transport quests and supplies, and kept the establishment in good repair. He also brought in some of his dentistry tools, so he could do fillings and pull teeth for sporting camp guests in need. Their staff included two male helpers, a road worker, a buckboard driver, a cook and cookee, and a cabin girl. At least two of the men were almost constantly working on the road or trying to find the break in the phone line or keeping the many trails open and boats afloat or doing some guiding. Others worked the gardens, picked berries, feed the animals, milked the cow, collected eggs, slaughtered hens and pigs, and

canned foodstuffs. Getting good reliable help was often a challenge and was ultimately a major reason MacLeods and Call cited for selling the sporting camp.

Food preparation of one sort or another was ongoing. A crew was in during the maple-sugaring season to tap the trees and put up quarts of the syrup that were stored in a root cellar where it did not freeze. When they came in to sugar, they also brought in 30 chickens and a rooster in crates that they could slide over the snow. In early May, after the snow was off the tote road, they walked the farm animals in from KIW. The first harvested crop was probably dandelion greens that were also canned. As their garden crops matured, the cook prepared them for the meals and anything beyond that she canned for later in the season. Berry picking started with strawberries in June, red raspberries in July, followed by blackberries, and then blueberries. Sporting camp guests often helped with the picking, something people enjoyed. The cook pickled the tomatoes left at the end of the season and on the next to last day of each season, they killed and canned the few remaining chickens.

The MacLeods and Call knew their challenges when they bought the sporting camp and moved quickly to address them. Their predecessors had not tended to some of the changing expectations of sports and their families. Doc fully repaired the sleeping cabins and the two women reappointed them and that included new bedsprings. They bought new boats and canoes to replace, in some cases, rafts from which the sports fished. The menu drifted away from the traditional logging camp type fare of three large meals a day to a greater variety of preparations and fresh foodstuffs. The other major

change was their promotion of guest access from Greenville and that made it such that sports did not necessarily have to do any walking to reach the sporting camp. Doc met sports at the Greenville train terminal, drove them to Kokadjo and along First Roach Pond to a logging camp near South Inlet. From here everyone rode the buckboard to Big Lyford Camps, where they stopped to eat. Their second rest stop was at Jesse Burn's cabin about two and a half miles from the sporting camp. At times, when the road was rough, some got off the buckboard and walked. By the end of 1933, the CCC rebuilt the road from Kokadjo to the foot of Big Lyford, where they had two cabins. When the CCC pulled out, they gave the two structures to Call and the MacLeods and they used one, "Lunch Camp," to provide shelter for sports waiting for their teamster to take them down the Pleasant Valley Tote Road to the sporting camp. When sports were on their way home, they had lunch at the cabin before climbing in a vehicle for a ride to Greenville.

The major attraction to Little Lyfords continued to be the area's large number of excellent fishing spots. While sports could catch 80 or more fish in a day in 1935, they generally only kept a few to eat and to take home. Sports hiked trails to fish the Little Lyford, Horseshoe, Spectacle (2), Mountain Brook, Lloyd, Moose (Baker), Grassy, and Pearl ponds. They also fished the river; especially in the area of the dam and its long impoundment. Boats were available at the dam and the two landings above it until at least the late 1940s, when the dam disintegrated. The small cabin that was at Baker Pond in 1919 had collapsed by 1930, but sports had a camping area there and at Horseshoe Pond for over night stays. A small cabin at Mountain Brook Pond was available beginning in

1940. Sports also used an old cabin not far above Gulf Hags, but had to carry in the blankets when using it.

The MacLeods and Call sold at the end of the 1940 season, but they continued to visit the sporting camp. They fixed up a cabin of their own at the nearby abandoned lumber camp. When they gave up their own cabin is unknown, but it may have been in the late 1940s, when their friends the Turners moved to Camp Wapiti near Patten. No one seems to have taken over their site, after they stopped using it.

Albert B. and Maude P. Turner, who had guided and been a winter caretaker for the MacLeods and Call, bought the sporting camp and continued the operation from 1941 through the 1947 season. They lived in Corinth with Maude's parents, when they were not at the sporting camp. Albert had grown up in the Abbot and Blanchard area and done lumbering and guiding work. As new owners, they spruced up the place with flower gardens and new red roofs on the cabins. Over the next six years, Albert and his crew spend a great deal of time replacing rotted sill logs, porches, roofs and generally attending to structural problems with which the previous owners had not dealt. They also built several new cabins and extended the sporting camp's season by advertising to hunters, who could stay until Thanksgiving. They typically had 40-45 deer hunters. The Turners were back in January and February to trap, cut wood and ice, and then again in mid-March for maple sugaring and in mid-April to get ready for the season.

What had been only a buckboard road from Big Lyford to the sporting camp was now passable with a truck and a Model A Ford, both of which they used to bring in

guests and supplies. It was now an hour and thirty minutes from Kokadjo to the sporting camp, instead of a five and a half hour boat and buckboard ride. They continued to use the Lunch Camp, but they gradually abandoned it. However, road challenges haunted them, as they did every owner. On May 12, 1943 they could not get their chickens, animals, and groceries in due to high water and guests had to walk the five miles from Big Lyford. In 1946, the road was in excellent shape, due to the Turner's constant attention.

The war years presented the Turners some challenges, but in spite of general transportation curtailment, the number of sports coming to the sporting camp was high. Help was as hard as ever to find and foodstuffs had to be carefully planned given the rationing. The cooks continued to can, 23 quarts of Dandelion greens, 50 quarts of raspberries, and many other items as the season progressed. They trapped and ate the animals, like raccoons that raided the chicken coop and porcupines that gnawed on the cabins. The MacLeods and Call had done likewise, but more out of curiosity than need. Late in 1946, the Turners brought in a gas refrigerator and stove and electricity soon followed.

Communications between the sporting camp and the outside world presented problems to every sporting camp owner. One branch or tree landing on the phone line shorted it out and rendered it useless until removed. Some times the line broke, with a tree falling on it or a moose tugging to free its antlers or, beginning in the late 1940s, mechanized equipment accidently pulling it down. If others along the line did not repair

their section, then all others had no connection. Little Lyford Camps were crippled at times, when the line did not work for as much as two weeks at a time. Guests could not contact the sporting camp, when they reached Greenville and desired a ride in. The mail, which contained most reservations, could be another problem when the river flooded a road or washed out a bridge. Generally someone from the sporting camp went out for the mail at least every other day.

In addition to the fishermen and hunters, other sporting camp guests hiked the area trails. Some went down to Chairback Mountain and others to White Cap Mountain. They climbed the slide on Baker Mountain aiming for the flag kept near the top; it could be seen from the sporting camp. Many took their lunches down to Gulf Hagas to walk the trails out to different viewpoints. The most frequently used trail, other than the ones to the ponds, was to Pinnacle Peak to the west of the sporting camp.

Little Lyford Pond Camps did not open for the 1948 and 1949 seasons, but the Turners occasionally used it. Prior to the 1948 season, they bought Camp Wapiti, which was west of Patten, and moved there at the close of their 1947 season at Little Lyford Ponds. Since they did not have a buyer for their Lyford Pond Camps until December 1949, they did not open it, but did occasionally send guests from Wapiti down there for short stays.⁸⁵ Many of the sports, who been with them at Little Lyford, joined them at

⁸⁵ Bliss, George S., "personal journal for Wapiti Camps (1948)," unpublished personal document found at Moosehead Historical Society, Greenville, Maine.

Wapiti Camp. Those folks included the MacLeods, Call, Zesigers, and George Bliss, who had encouraged them to purchase Wapiti Camp.

One of the Turner's guest families, Herbert B. and Becky (Bessie) Zesiger of Toms River, New Jersey, bought the sporting camp with a mortgage and sold it two years later in November 1951. Herbert was born in Akron, Ohio, and married, lived and worked in Ohio and Michigan, until he began his WWII service (1942-1945). He and his second wife, Bessie, and her married daughter Teda Herndon were guests at the sporting camp the first two weeks of September 1946. Herbert, a hunter and fisherman, found it difficult to leave at the end of the first visit. After they sold, they moved back to Toms River where they lived the rest of their lives.

For a whole week one spring in the late 1940s, the sporting camp's guests had the rare opportunity to observe a mountain lion, as it roamed the edges of the sporting camp's clearing, apparently hunting small rodents.⁸⁶ Sightings of mountain lions between the Lyford Ponds and Yoke Pond from the early 1920s into the 1950s were frequent. Noted trapper Walter Arnold observed tracks in the 1920s around Indian Pond and had one throw a trap near the top of Saddlerock Mountain on one of the ledges. Others reported seeing them on the AT. Keith Skillin of Yoke Pond Camps observed them in the late 1940s. John Leathers, area game warden, saw their tracks in the 1950s.

⁸⁶ Information came from interviews with John Leathers and Oscar Cronk.

Donald W. and Olga J. Chase were the Little Lyford proprietors for a few years beginning with the 1952 season. They may have made the sporting camp their year round home; their mortgage listed no other residence. The Chases grew up in Milo, married in 1930, lived and worked in Dover-Foxcroft, ran the sporting camp, and then moved to San Diego c.1956.

The Chases sold to Charles O. Below by 1957 when access was by auto. Below grew up in Wisconsin, served in WWI, returned to Wisconsin to work in the lumber business and then as a salesman of investment bonds. By 1940, he had moved to the village of Orleans in far northern Vermont on Seymour Lake, where he married a year later and sold life insurance. He also had a home in Greenville from the mid 1950s into the 1960s. How he operated the sporting camp is unknown, but he sold to the Torrey family after two years.

In October 1959, Gale and Mary Torrey and three children left Poland in their car and headed north to Greenville, Kokadjo, and the outlet of Big Lyford Pond in order to see the sporting camp they were thinking of purchasing.⁸⁷ Here, Gale and his two oldest children went down the Pleasant Valley Tote Road to look at the sporting camp. Mary and their youngest child stayed behind near the car at the pond. Several hours later Gale returned with two excited children raving about how beautiful the place was, and their youngest sibling became green with envy for not going with them. Six months later, with the depth of mud receding, the family began hauling everything they needed in by a jeep

⁸⁷ The information during the Torrey years came from Erland Torrey.

Gale bought the previous winter and a 1948 one and a half ton dump truck. The hauling included everything from 100 pound bottles of propane, to gasoline for generators, food supplies, boats, building materials, and much more. The road was only passable by a 4-wheel drive vehicle or a truck with high ground clearance, and did not change much until about the time they sold in 1977.

Gale Torrey developed an interest in running a sporting camp during the 1950s. He grew up on a small Poland farm where work was never finished and families knew what hard work was. His father and his father's brother were both great woodsmen. His father's brother Erland C. Torrey was a fire warden on West Kennebago Mountain from 1935 to 1949 and was Chief Warden for the Maine State Inland Fisheries and Game Department, from which he retired after 25 years of service. Gale saw running a sporting camp as a way to be his own boss and knew, like work on a farm, that his auto mechanic skills used in his current employment, would serve him well.

The Torreys ran the sporting camp as a family business and everyone had chores. Gale being a mechanic took care of generators (30 volt DC current in all the cabins) and always kept things running. He was everything, from mechanic to dishwasher to laundry man to administrator. Mary did all the cooking. The Torrey children came into the sporting camp as soon as school closed in June and left to return to school Labor Day weekend. David helped out until 1965 when he left for the military; Sally did most of the cabin cleaning until she went off to college in 1967, and Erland lugged firewood to the cabins, mowed lawns, and kept boats bailed out through 1973, but then came back many

weekends to do chores. During the different berry seasons, everyone helped reduce the grocery bill by picking berries, which then appeared in the desserts that were always a big hit with guests. As their predecessors had done, the Torreys kept a vegetable garden for a few years. Animals ate most everything and the fencing was no deterrent to moose. A June 30th killing frost in their third year caused them to finally abandon the garden.

For a couple years in the 1960s, the Torrey's allowed Bill Gourley, an area trapper, who at the time owned Schoodic Lake Camps, to use their sporting camp at Little Lyford. Such arrangements were common from the first days of sporting camps, if owners did not reside year round at their sporting camp. In some cases, the arrangement included cutting ice and firewood, and keeping the roofs shoveled so they would not collapse. Albert Turner, a former owner of the sporting camp, also lived there a number of winters, while he trapped without the aid of a snow-machine. His only guest was an occasional visit from the game warden. Turner rode out one year with the Torreys when they came in for a visit.

One aspect of the sporting camp that was dear to the Torreys was the feeling of remoteness. Having to rely on unpredictable forms of communication contributed to that feeling. For the first five years, someone from the family went out to the Kokadjo post office about every third day. After it closed, the mailbox was at the head of Frenchtown Road where knowledgeable guests picked it up on their way in and saved the family precious time and gasoline. The other major factor they liked was that guests could not drive to the camp. They parked at Big Lyford, where a phone box nailed to a tree enabled

guests to call for a ride and Torrey came out with his four-wheel-drive jeep to bring them in. However, by 1977 loggers spoiled that feeling by creating a passable road and three years later guests could get to the sporting camp by car.

The Torreys, who were nearing retirement age and felt it was time to leave, sold in 1977 to Joel and Lucy Frantzman, who ran the sporting camp as Little Lyford Pond Lodge until 1987.⁸⁸ Prior to owning the sporting camp, Joel worked for Outward Bound and after a number of years with that organization, he began to look around Maine for a site for backcountry skiing. The Little Lyford area had the qualities that both he and his wife, who were excellent skiers, wanted and thought they could develop. They opened the sporting camp for the winter in 1978. Over the next years, they cleared numerous ski trails, including a route that Joel used to ski into Greenville, where he ordered and bought food and other supplies. He skied back home and Folsoms air service flew the supplies into Second Little Lyford Pond, where he picked them up and dragged them on a sled back to the sporting camp. Joel built one cabin that the sun heated.

After ten years, the Frantzman sold to Kate C. and Gustave “Bud” E. Fackelman. They had been living in Grafton, Massachusetts where Kate taught school and Bud taught veterinary medicine at Tufts College for 25 years.⁸⁹ They managed the sporting camp for about five years, stayed open year round, but reserved blocks of time they knew they

⁸⁸ Arlene and Bob LeRoy provided information about the Frantzman era.

⁸⁹ Arlen, Alice. *In the Maine Woods*. Hallowell, ME: Letter Systems Hallowell, 1994.

would have few, if any, guests, so they could keep active with their other interests. Their guests were typically those who enjoyed out door activity and generally did not include hunters, even though hunting in the area was excellent. Some winter guests came in by ski-plane that landed on Second Lyford Pond. Bud was an avid fly fisherman and an Orvis and L.L. Bean certified fly tying instructor. He taught workshops in the off-season in Greenville, where the couple also worked with the Moosehead Lake Historical Society helping to catalogue some of their materials.⁹⁰ They built a large new modern style log cabin that they used and in 2016 it is the main lodge. The Fackelman's ceased commercial operations about 1993 and sold in August 1997 to Arlene and Robert (Bob) LeRoy.

The LeRois were familiar with the north Maine woods and sporting camp operations.⁹¹ Bob's first introduction to Maine was with his family in 1962. The year before, Bob's father, looking for a remote area to spend some time in, took a map of northern Maine, closed his eyes and put his finger on the map and on Caucomgomoc Lake. After a summer there, they bought a cabin at Chesuncook Village and it is still in the family. Eventually, Bob and his brother Tom moved west to work in the outdoors for a while, but they remained connected to the family cabin at Chesuncook Village. When they learned Medawisla Camps on Second Roach Pond was for sale, they made the purchase and moved back. It was at Medawisla that Bob met Arlene. After a few years,

⁹⁰ *Bangor Daily News*, March 31, 20014, and April 25, 2003.

⁹¹ Information for the LeRoy years came from exchanges with Arlene and Bob LeRoy.

Bob and Arlene were interested in running their own operation, so they left Medawisla. While they were looking and living at Chesuncook, they helped Bert and Maggie McBurney at Chesuncook House, during last years of McBurney ownership. Their dream was to buy Chesuncook House, but that never worked out.

The LeRoys were also interested in running a sporting camp, so when they heard the Fackelmans were ready to sell in 1997, they bought Little Lyford Camps. Bud and Kate kept the cabin at Mountain Brook Pond, but sold it a year later to the LeRoys who put it on their commercial lease. The Little Lyford structures had been maintained, but Bob had plenty to do just to keep them in a steady state. Right after they bought the sporting camp, Bob's brother Tom came for a visit. At breakfast the next morning, Tom indicated the cabin was pretty drafty. Bob asked for an explanation. During the night, Tom rolled over and his elbow hit a log that then fell out of the wall. Bob purchased a portable sawmill that he used to mill lumber that he needed. He also converted an old wood shed into a barn that they used for their rescued animals.

The sporting camp was the LeRoys year round home where they were interested in living, and recreating for others, a wilderness sporting camp environment of the late 1800s. They also promoted ecotourism, as opposed to purely hunting and fishing. To create and help preserve the 1800's ambience, everyone parked all vehicles including any snow machines away from the sporting camp and out of sight. The sporting camp had no electricity and the cabins used kerosene lamps. They instituted the American plan, developed organic vegetable and herb gardens, kept laying hens, six sheep, a goat, and

four llamas that they trained to accompany folks on hikes. In winter, they did not purposely pack the sporting camp's cross country trails. At this time, they had eight sleeping cabins on-site and the cabin at Mountain Brook Pond.

The LeRoys, working without hired help, tended to the gardens and the animals, made sure boats and canoes were available at the fishing sites, cut the fire wood, preserved food stuffs, and ensured their guests enjoyed themselves. Bob was the morning breakfast cook, Arlene took care of lunch and the evening meal, and Bob did the clean up. The menu was vegetarian and fish. In an effort to help preserve the fishery, the LeRoys promoted catch and release, and keeping a few small ones that they cooked for the guest. Bob also found time to teach fly-fishing.

The assistance the LeRoys did have was Abbey, their beloved dog. A popular activity of winter guests was to ski or snowshoe down into Gulf Hagas area. When they asked about a guide to lead them through the maze of trails, Bob and Arlene pointed to Abbey who loved the excursion and waited at each junction for everyone. Summer guests, many of whom were from the city, seemed to be mostly interested in a quiet relaxing time, which included paddling around on the different area ponds, learning to fly-fish, and watching moose. No AT hikers found their way to the sporting camp.

The road to the sporting camp was not plowed in the winter so a strategy was developed to deal with it. As snow season approached, Bob loaded their snow machine into the back of the truck with chains on its tires. He drove the truck out to the plowed road when a major storm was underway; one that he figured would snow bound them.

Sometimes that meant getting up during the middle of the night to see what was happening, and drive out, if it looked like the snow was mounting up to more than a foot. The reverse would happen in the spring. He would slowly bring the truck back toward the sporting camp, as the road sections became passable.

One of the LeRoy's interests was in the preservation of the fishery of the area that surrounded their lease. About the sixth year of their proprietorship, the land ownership was in the throws of change and eventual extensive logging. Envisioning what that would bring, the LeRoys reached out to the landowners and conservation landholders like The Nature Conservancy and Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). The AMC purchased their sporting camp in April 2004. Once the AMC owned the sporting camp, they were interested in buying the 34,000 acres surrounding it and did so in October 2004. Bob went to work for the AMC as the area's land manager and he and Arlene moved to and lived year round at the Mountain Pond cabin that they had not included in the sale. Some years later, Bob's love of the sporting camp business called to him once again and he left the AMC job and they sold the cabin, which is still in use.

Charles (Chuck) and Rosemary James became the AMC's first caretakers.⁹² Rosemary had grown up at her parents', Cliff and Connie Kealiher, First West Branch Pond Camps at the head of the river. Her father guided for both Little Lyford and First West Branch Ponds in the 1930s, and her great grandparents, the Savages, worked at Big

⁹² Information during the AMC ownership came from Charles James.

Houston Pond Camps c.1910 before moving on to First West Branch Pond Camps, where their daughter, Abbie, and her husband, Fred Chadwick, were the owners. Chuck worked as a ranger and campsite manager for Baxter State Park and was a deputy warden with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

On the ridgeline between the two Little Lyford Ponds was another cabin, known as Hinckley Camp.⁹³ Frank C. Hinckley, who owned the cabin and the land in 1922, died in 1935. Hinckley's father, Frank Hinckley, probably built the cabin, for which he had the financial resources to include a magnificent river stone fireplace and chimney, both of which are still standing with every stone in place in 2015. The cabin was no simple trapper's cabin or abandoned logging camp structure fixed up.

When Frank Hinckley actually built the cabin is unknown, but his connection to the area began by 1870. He was an outdoorsman, who traveled throughout the north Maine woods, a Bangor lumberman, an owner of the land around the cabin, and an incorporator of the Katahdin Dam Company to which the Maine State Legislature granted a charter in 1871 for dams on the West Branch of the Pleasant River. In May 1878, he spent 10 days on Moosehead Lake fishing with friends.⁹⁴ Eight years later in September, he and a group went north on Moosehead Lake to Northeast Carry and down the West

⁹³ This name appears repeatedly in the Bliss journals.

⁹⁴ *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, May 14, 1878, p.3.

Branch of the Penobscot River to at least Medway at the river's mouth.⁹⁵ Medway was their first opportunity to either resupply or take a stage to Bangor. Frank died in 1909.

Frank C. Hinckley worked with his father, was a forester and surveyor, continued their lumbering and real estate interests, and owned the cabin in 1922 when a timber cruiser assessed it at \$500; he had stopped using it. Six years later the cabin roof was badly rotted and the front porch collapsed. In 1929, Doc MacLeod of Little Lyford Camps took down the cabin salvaging the wall logs for a new dining-kitchen structure that he built at his sporting camp.⁹⁶

Even though Frank C. had stopped using the cabin, he did occasionally visit the area, in which he had a much grander interest.⁹⁷ Eventually, he formed a development company and in 1932 presented a proposal for a Moosehead Lake Park and Camping Reserve.⁹⁸ The proposed reserve of 70,000 to 100,000 acres stretched from Beaver Cove on Moosehead Lake through the Roach Ponds and down the West Branch of the Pleasant River to the head of Gulf Hags and down Long Pond and Long Pond Stream to Lake

⁹⁵ *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, September 16, 1886, p.3

⁹⁶ Bliss journals

⁹⁷ His name appears in the Chairback Mountain Camps guest book.

⁹⁸ Hinckley, Frank C., "Outline for an Address on Moosehead Lake Park and Camping Reserve Project," 16 pages, 1932. Bangor Public Library Digital collection digi.bpl.lib.me.us/books_pubs/46. A map of the area exists and is privately held.

Onawa. The plan included the Barren-Chairback and White Cap mountain ranges. The concept apparently died with Frank C.'s death in 1935.

Some may have known the Hinckley Camp as Gartley's Gazebo, as identified by a plaque placed on the fireplace at some point, and still there at the time AMC bought the land in 2004. One possible Gartley was Gerry Gartley of Greenville. He traveled around by horse, buggy, sleigh, and motorcycle to the logging camps in the area in the 1920s to entertain the men by showing movies. A logging camp was close to the Hinckley Camp and the Hinckleys, as lumbermen in the area, would have likely supported such events. He later became the first Maine state trooper to ride a motorcycle. After WWII, he owned and operated Beaver Creek Camps on Moosehead Lake.

By the early 1870s, when Frank Hinckley perhaps first visited the upper West Branch of the Pleasant River, he would have already known about Jim Lyford, Henry Clapp, and Thomas Billings, the regions three finest hunters and trappers, one succeeding the other between 1840 and 1890; they had no equals. At one time or another, each of them hunted and trapped from Big Lyford Pond, whose short outlet stream flows into the West Branch a few miles up river from the Hinckley Camp at Little Lyford Ponds.

Recorded oral history revealed that Jim Lyford (Uncle Lyford) and his son William of Sebec came to Big Lyford Pond before 1868 and built a small cabin in support of their hunting and trapping.⁹⁹ They may have passed through Sebec and

⁹⁹ Shirley Duplessis captured the information in her history of Kokad-jo (see note 75).

Onawa lakes to reach Long Pond and then followed the West Branch of the Pleasant River or traveled the Chamberlain Lake Tote Road from KIW. Jim, born in 1794, was with his parents as one of the first settlers in Sebec (1802) and resided there until he died. His wife gave birth in 1831 to William, who married his wife Hannah and fathered four children, but by 1880 moved his family to Iowa to farm.

Uncle Lyford's trapping endeavors took him well beyond the Piscataquis watershed and into the Penobscot watershed. One of his frequent stops was at the Philbrook (farm) shanty, the last stop on the Nahmakanta Tote Road before it reached South Twin Lake.¹⁰⁰ Here he taught a young Rufus Philbrook, eventually a well-respected trapper in his own right, how to trap. On one of his stops, after Mr. Philbrook had died (1838), most of the family was sick. He delayed his trip and stayed until they recovered.

In June 1867, Uncle Lyford was in the Moosehead Lake area and was sharing his life tales with a vacationing reporter from the *Lowell Daily Citizen and News*.¹⁰¹ Uncle Lyford was 73 years of age at the time and in excellent health, a condition he attributed to eating bear meat. He had been hunting for the past 58 years and killed 340 bears, but wanted to reach 365 before he could no longer hunt. On his hunting trips he always carried a *Bible* and kept a daily journal. He died a year later in 1868.

¹⁰⁰ *Forest and Stream*, Vol. LXXIV no. 19 (May 7, 1910): 0-003.

¹⁰¹ *Lowell Daily Citizen and News*, Lowell, MA, June 27, 1867.

Henry Clapp of Brownville succeeded Uncle Lyford as region's finest hunter and trapper. Whether or not he had a cabin on Big Lyford is unknown, but he hunted the area and in all probability used Uncle Lyford's cabin before and after he died. In March 1869, Henry was with two sports hunting and trapping for three weeks between KIW and First Roach Pond; an area that surrounds Big Lyford. They shot five moose and three caribou, and trapped a number of small animals.¹⁰² Clapp's excursions took him into northern Maine near the Canadian border and east across the Maine border into Canada, on some occasions for nine months at a time. He was perhaps best known for his extensive knowledge of black bears. For six years he raised two female black bear cubs and observed their woodland and foraging behaviors.¹⁰³ He took an 18-year old Rufus Philbrook with him trapping for the winter of 1850.¹⁰⁴

After Clapp died in 1873, the mantle for the area's finest hunter went to Thomas Waldo Billings, who at an early time had shot 71 bear, 200 moose and many caribou for the city markets, when such hunting was legal.¹⁰⁵ Billings had a trapper's cabin, big enough to barely hold three people, on the other side of the pond from the Lyford site.

¹⁰² *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, March 25, 1869 and March 26, 1869.

¹⁰³ Krohn, William, *The Life and Writings of Manly Hardy (1832-1910):...* Orono, Me: Maine Folklife Center, 2005.

¹⁰⁴ Hardy, Manly, "A Fall Fur Hunt in Maine I. The journey into the woods and building of a home camp," *Forest and Stream*, Vol. LXXIV no.19 (May 7, 1910): 728-732.

¹⁰⁵ *Forest and Stream*, Vol. LXIX no. 20 (November 16, 1907): 777 has information in this paragraph.

Billings guided C.H. Ames and another man to the cabin c.1867 and nearly 40 years later Ames was at Big Lyford Camps, the site of Uncle Lyford's trapper's cabin at the head of the pond, reminiscing about that trip. From Billings, Ames learned that the pond, originally known as Fish Pond, became Big Lyford Pond in honor of Uncle Lyford.¹⁰⁶ As his predecessors Lyford and Clapp, Billings also worked with Rufus Philbrook, but when Billings died in 1890 he had no successor; it might have been Philbrook had he not moved to Minnesota to trap.

What transpired at Uncle Lyford's site on Big Lyford after he died in 1868 is unclear. Oral history indicates his son continued to use it until he moved in the late 1870s, but no indicators suggest who may have used the site during the 1880s other than someone used it. In the 1890s, Reverend Ernest DeFremery Miel of Hartford, Connecticut and a doctor from Connecticut tented at Big Lyford Pond at the Uncle Lyford site with their families.¹⁰⁷ Reverend Miel was the Episcopal rector at Trinity Church in Hartford by 1893, a position he held until his death in 1925. Miel grew up in Philadelphia, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was captain of the football team, and was an 1891 graduate of Yale's Berkeley Divinity School. At the time he camped at the pond, his family included his wife Marion, three daughters, a son, and three servants. His accompanying doctor friend in the 1890s was probably a fellow

¹⁰⁶ By 1882 mapmakers labeled the pond Big Lyford Pond.

¹⁰⁷ Duplessis' book on Kokad-jo had some information about Miel. Other information came from the archives at Hartford Trinity Church and the Berkeley Divinity School (Yale University).

Berkeley Divinity School graduate Reverend John N. Lewis Jr. (1892), who was rector at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Waterbury, Connecticut by 1901, and was with Miel on trips after 1910. Lewis and his wife Mary had no children. Apparently the families eventually built several cabins and an outside rock fireplace for cooking. The Miel route to the pond in the 1890s is also unknown, but by that time an alternative to the Pleasant Valley Tote Road was developing from Greenville. What may have influenced the Miels to vacation at this wilderness site is unknown. They were not previously guests at nearby First West Branch Pond Camps.¹⁰⁸

Just prior to 1900, a Mr. L. M. Gordon of Piscataquis County obtained the lease for a lot that included the structures the Miels had been using and opened Big Lyford Camps, a sporting camp.¹⁰⁹ Whether or not the Miels ever had a lease for the site is unknown, as is what their arrangement with Gordon was. Given that the Miels were at the new sporting camp from 1910-1913 for much of the month of August, it would seem that they were also there during the previous decade. Gordon added more structures and a dining cabin, and ran the operation until c.1904, when Everett B. and Winifred Patten became the proprietors until c.1909, when the couple apparently bought and moved to a

¹⁰⁸ The sporting camp still has the old guest books.

¹⁰⁹ *Daily Kennebec Journal*, January 26, 1907. As other sporting camp proprietors of the time, Gordon knew that the long strings of fish advertised in such publications as *In the Maine Woods* by the B&A could not be sustained year after year. In January 1907, he and nine other concerned individuals petitioned the State of Maine for the closing of Big Lyford Pond to live bait fishing for five years.

sporting camp in the vicinity of Chesuncook Village.¹¹⁰ The Pattens gave up sporting camp life by 1918, when they were living in Bangor and he was a bookkeeper at a bank.

When on vacation in the Maine woods, Miel wrote to his parishioners. The saved letters in the Trinity Church archives were from Big Lyford Pond and dated 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913. In 1915 and 1916 he wrote from a sporting camp at Ragged Lake, which was northeast of Big Lyford. From 1916 through 1920 Reverend Miel was with the Red Cross as Chaplain to the armed forces in France, where he returned to visit friends in 1922. In 1923, he was ill, but, in 1924, he returned to the Maine woods for his last time to a sporting camp opposite Mt. Kineo on Moosehead Lake.

Miel's letters from Maine provide a few glimpses of the Miels' summers in Maine, often with their friends Mary and Reverend John N. Lewis Jr.. To reach the sporting camp in 1911, the Miels took the train to Greenville and then the Moosehead Lake ferry 11 miles to Lilly Bay where a buckboard with a capacity for 12 persons and drawn by four horses took them the next seven miles to the end of the West Branch Trail. For the last two miles to Big Lyford Pond, the tote road was so rough that people walked. In some years, once the rectors had their families settled at Big Lyford, they returned to Greenville to take the train a short distance to Jackman and then headed to Penobscot Lake for a week before returning. One of the hikes they took from Big Lyford, perhaps each year, was to climb nearby White Cap Mountain via the fire warden's trail, which, at

¹¹⁰ *The Maine Sportsman*, Vol. 10 no.112 (December 1902) coupled with information from Ancertry.com.

that time, was on the west side of the mountain. The text of his letters attest to his love of the out-a-doors, appreciation of the wildlife, the woods' spiritual impact, and his fondness for the French heritage he found in the area. Perhaps it was his French interests and an Episcopal enclave in Dennistown, just north of Jackman, that attracted him to the area.

Patten apparently sold to Fred N. and Florence May Webster of Springfield in 1916. Fred grew up in Lakeville and farmed there until early 1900, when he moved to Monson, married Florence in 1904, and worked as a carpenter before he shifted to blacksmithing. At the sporting camp the Websters kept a small farm with chickens for eggs and eating, a cow for milk and butter, and a garden for fresh vegetables. They encouraged guests to come via the Pleasant Valley Tote Road with a team from KIW. It was simpler than traveling to Greenville, taking the steamer to Lily Bay, and then the stage to Kokadjo, where he met them with a boat, which transported them to Second Roach Pond South Inlet and an awaiting buckboard.

In 1928, Willis M. Sherman, raised in Monson, and his wife, Annie Belle of Wellington, gave up their jobs, and with their son Ivan W. Sherman of Foxcroft, assumed ownership of the sporting camp for the next 40 years. Willis was an inspector for the railroad in Foxcroft and Annie Belle was a cloth inspector at the woolen mill. Sometime in the 1940s, Ivan and his wife Eva took over running the sporting camp and Ivan's sister Inez and her husband helped them. With the exception of a few winters after the birth of

their daughter, Ivan and Eva lived in Greenville during the off-season.¹¹¹ At the time of purchase, the sporting camp had a kitchen, dining, and socializing building on the knoll above the pond and five sleeping cabins lining the shore. They had a huge garden, a cow and chickens, all of which provided provisions that Eva cooked on a wood stove and served the guests in the common dining room. The sleeping cabins had kerosene lamps for light and wood stoves for heat.

The Shermans knew that buildings in good repair, spotless house cleaning, and good food brought guests back year after year. Many men brought their wives from the city and Eva knew their comfortableness with outhouses. Not only were the outhouses extremely clean and neat, she also provided a bucket full of fresh pine needles, with which a user could cover the waste and keep the air fresh.

When the Shermans first bought the sporting camp, guests came either by team from KIW or by steamer from Greenville. By the mid 1930s, the KIW route was not in use. People drove to the end of First Roach Pond, where a horse team met them for the final leg of the trip. A horse team was still part of the transportation system in 1942, but in the mid-1960s the final short hike was eliminated when they put in a road.

The children of the families that came for a week or two or more enjoyed the fishing, swimming, and playing with the rowboats. Ivan would often take them for a day's outing to First Roach Pond Island, where they fished and he had a lean-to and fire

¹¹¹ Most of the information about the Sherman years came from Mike Otley, a camp guest.

pit so they could enjoy a mid-day meal. Eva had a special way with birds and animals that captivated the children. At her bird feeders she would hold out her hand with seed and birds would land on her hand and arm to feed. She could also entice small animals like chipmunks to sit on her hand and eat.

The Moore family of Paoli, Pennsylvania frequented the sporting camp for many years. The family wanted a cabin of their own design and prevailed upon the Shermans to build one, perhaps in the 1950s, on the shore set off to the west of the sporting camp. It was larger and much fancier than all the others. The Shermans' guests stayed in the cabin, when the Moore family was not present.

Big Lyford Camps never developed as a stopping point for AT hikers who opted to bypass White Cap Mountain and pick up the trail at Gulf Hags. The AT guide books from 1934 through 1969 mentioned only the alternative route down the Pleasant Valley Tote Road and not Big Lyford Camps as a place to stay. The reason may have been the sporting camp's close proximity to First West Branch Pond Camps and that the sporting camp was at the head of Big Lyford Pond, not at its foot where the tote road, the alternative AT route, crossed below the dam.

After Ivan's death in 1969, the sporting camp had two owners in quick succession. Charles Wilson and his wife, who were both from Dexter, purchased and ran it for four seasons. Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Pernice of Winslow bought the sporting camp in 1974, hired a person to run it for a year or two and then had Cliff Kealiher manage the sporting

camp for one year.¹¹² Beginning the following year, the Pernices, along with their daughters and several other cooks and helpers, ran the operation for a few years, before they closed the commercial operation and maintained the sporting camp for their private use.

In 1991, the Pernices replaced a stick frame building the Wilson's built after removing an old log structure on the knoll above the lake. The new structure was a traditional round horizontal log building, built in Canada and reassembled on the site. Over the years the Pernices have continued to maintain all the sleeping cabins in order to preserve the traditional ambiance of the sporting camp. They inherited a short canoe paddle that supposedly belonged to Mrs. Miel.

The West Branch of the Pleasant River valley was also home to Pat Hamlin who lived and trapped much like his predecessors, Billings and Thompson, the only difference being, he came to the valley the late 1940s, more than a half century later.¹¹³ Hamlin, a Milo native, shunned the public eye, and was viewed as a hospitable hermit by those who lived in the area and checked on him occasionally to see that he was ok. When the Perhams of the nearby Chairback Mountain Camps heard his gun shot, they knew he was eating. Their two hired men checked on him especially when they were in during the winter.

¹¹² Charles Pernice provided the current history information.

¹¹³ Mathew and Peter Hamlin, and Nancy Mae Perham Offutt provided the information on Pat Hamlin.

Hamlin first worked as a cook for a Ladd logging camp on Henderson Brook. When the camp closed Hamlin continued to live in one of the camp's log stockade style cabins. He lived year round in this cabin, which was on the Maine State public lot, not far from the northeast most corner at the east end of Long Pond. After the closing of the Ladd logging operation another opened on Long Pond's south shore opposite Middle Island and Hamlin did some cooking there but kept his home on Henderson Brook. The only passable road ended nine miles away at KIW. Hamlin's mother and step father were the proprietors of the nearby Chairback Mountain Camps from 1927-1934.¹¹⁴

Hamlin's tidy cabin rested in a grassy clearing with a fine spring, a view of the beaver flowage, a garden, and a root cellar. His trail to Long Pond went down the west side of the brook about 200 yards, crossed on the beaver dam, and meandered to the pond's shore where he kept a boat storage shed. He also had hovels and other shelters on his 50-mile trap-line that wove through the region. The game he shot, he canned and his walls were generally lined with it. Fish were not his favorite, but he ate them anyway. When he needed supplies, he walked out to Brownville, bought them, and returned a day or two later. In winter, he used snowshoes, never having a mechanical snow-sled. At some point, he began to receive some form of a monthly payment that was delivered at Greenville. Folsom's air service in Greenville knew when the payment arrived and flew in to pick him up, and fly him back, after buying supplies and spending a night in town.

¹¹⁴ Ralph and Lillian York

In January 1964, Dick Folsom and Jim Drake reported Hamlin was missing. Folsom flew in with Hamlin's first supplies for the winter after the ice firmed up sometime in the first week of January, but he didn't meet the plane as he usually did. Folsom went over to see Jim Drake at Chairback Mountain Camps thinking Pat might be there, but he wasn't. They snowshoed back to Hamlin's and looked around pretty closely. Drake and Folsom noted that Hamlin's calendar last entry, the ice had frozen and looked good, was for December 24th; he marked each day with brief notes. Pat's coffee pot and small knapsack were hanging on the wall suggesting perhaps that he was not off on a long walk or over night along his trap lines. They thought that perhaps Pat had made a quick walk about to check the ice as he expected Dick to fly in in a week or so.¹¹⁵ They contacted the authorities and the area's game wardens conducted a weeklong search. His body was never found and the searchers concluded that he went through the ice on the way to one of his usual trapping areas.

The cabin remained in the family after his death. Eventually Pat's brother, Cedrick Sr., held the cabin lease and he passed it on to his son, Cedric Jr., whose nephew took it over in the early 2000s. The Hamlin families had used it regularly. In May 2016, Pat's storage shed at the northeast corner of Long Pond was almost fully collapsed, the trail that led from it to the cabin was faint, and the cabin was still standing, but needed considerable work in order to salvage it.

¹¹⁵ James Draper, a camp owner on Long Pond, had conversations with James Drake in 1965.

